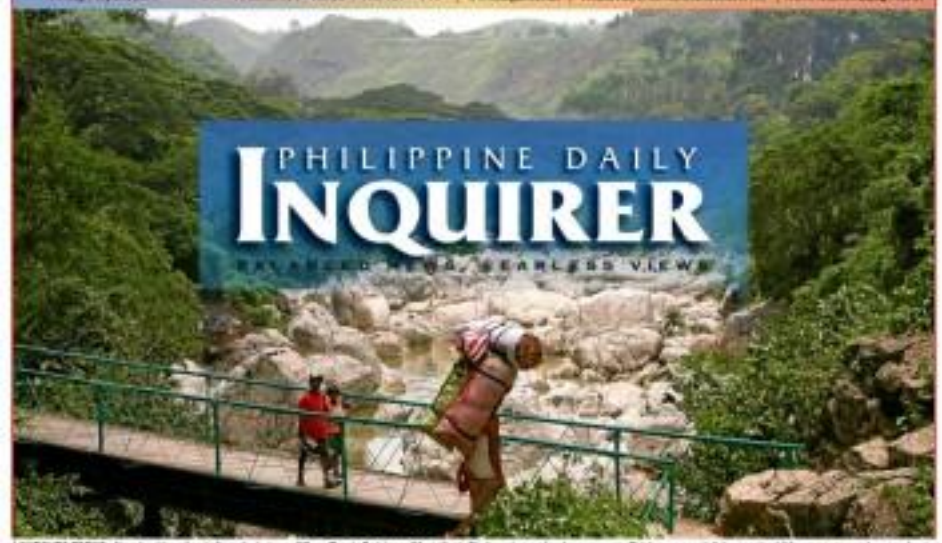
Friday, May 27, 2011 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 187 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Txt INQ ON<space>ON to 2467



LONGSIDE PRONE Huge boulders roll onto the bottom of Wawa Dam in Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal province, as local government officials warn people living near landslide-prone areas to be wary about Typhoon "Chedeng." According to the weather bureau, Chedeng is moving north toward the eastern seaboard of northern Luzon.

Andal Sr. 'roams' in jail

Gov shows photos of 'special treatment'

By Philip C. Tubeza

OTHER VIPS behind bars are getting special treatment, and Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu yesterday showed pictures to back his contention.

Angered by the refusal of jail officials to allow prosecutors and members of the media to inspect the cells of the suspected masterminds of the November 2009 Maguindanao massacre, Mangudadatu presented photos showing Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. inside his cell at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

"If you have the money, there is no line," Mangudadatu, who has his wife, sisters and other kin in the massacre, complained to reporters.

He said he had a "more explicit" photo showing Ampatuan Sr. "roaming" outside his cell.

ANDAL, A10

PHOTO PROOF Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu shows pictures of purported special treatment being given by jail officials to massacre suspect Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

DOJ eyes total prison overhaul

By Jovanie Aning

"THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is considering a 'total overhaul' of the penal system as a result of the controversy concerning the special privileges enjoyed by former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste and other VIP inmates of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Speaking yesterday at a press conference, Justice Undersecretary Francisco Baraan III said the panel looking into the habitation of NBP and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) officials vis-à-vis Leviste's unauthorized trip to Makati City on May 18 would recommend a top-to-bottom reshuffle and the strengthening of security measures at the national penitentiary.

"We will recommend a total overhaul of the system in the NBP, the replacement of the guards and even the officers. We are discussing the possibility of having some members of the Philippine Army guard the NBP in the meantime," said Baraan, the supervising officer of the panel.

"There will be replacements or reassignments. We will investigate," he added.

JUSTICE DEPT, A10

'Chedeng' spares PH, veers toward Japan

By Kristine L. Alave

TYPHOON "Chedeng" swirled north toward Japan yesterday, sparing the Philippines from a direct hit.

At least one fatality was reported from the typhoon—Jaime Tarifeña, 73, who went out on his raft to fish in spite of the bad weather on Wednesday, police said. His body was retrieved off Barangay Bicog in Dipaculao, Aurora province.

Thousands of residents who fled to evacuation centers in the Bicol region returned yesterday to their homes after the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the storm was moving away from the country.

CHEDENG, A10

P-Noy: No storm surprises, please

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino laid bare in office his unity a few weeks after Typhoon "Basyang" unleashed and pummeled Metro Manila and its environs, killing more than 100 people.

P-NOY, A10

Palace calls for boycott of black coral jewelry

By Christine O. Avendaño

IN A PLEA to preserve biodiversity, Malacañang yesterday called for a boycott of jewelry made from black corals and urged Filipinos overseas to report the smuggling of marine treasures.

Sen. Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on climate change, slammed the failure of authorities to stop a "very alarming" poaching of the coral and called for an inquiry.

"These corals do not just grow overnight. They take years to grow," she said.

PALACE, A10

2 AWARDEES Inquirer.net Marie Pristo speaks during a tribute to Management Man of the Year awardees hosted by Philippine Daily Inquirer and Management Association of the Philippines. Awardees were (inset) Ramon del Rosario Jr. and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima.

New luxury home for ex-IMF chief

NEW YORK—From the outside, it looks like a pretty good place to await trial.

From a temporary space in the luxury Empire Building at No. 71 Broadway, former International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn moved late Wednesday in a plush town house, which has everything from a state-of-the-art theater to waterfall showers, in one of Manhattan's trendiest districts.

NEW LUXURY, A21

NEWS
DOJ calls GMA to probe / A2

METRO
Another bus hit Estella's cab first, say 2 witnesses / A21

WORLD
Civil war looms in Yemen as dozens killed in capital / A23

SPORTS
Mavs close out Thunder, book NBA Finals ticket / A28

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Cloudy with Rain
Tagaytay city	Rain Shower
Laoag	Cloudy with Rain
Mindoro	Cloudy with Rain
Bicol Area	Cloudy with Rain
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain
Iloilo	Cloudy with Rain
Cebu	Cloudy with Rain
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rain
Davao	Cloudy with Rain

2/3D	
1AM	21 30
4AM	13 23
7AM	8 14

LUCKY 6/49	
1AM	4 4 1
4AM	4 7 3
7AM	5 5 6

SIX DIGIT Jackpot	
	0 4 6 2 3 2

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN	
	5 10 21 23 32 41
	P8,329,889.20

SUPERLOTTO 6/49	
	3 7 35 38 39 40
	P16,000,000.00

AQUINO

GANTIMAGO

He's Miriam's best man, P-Noy confirms

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino confirmed yesterday he will be the best man at the renewal of the marriage vows between Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Narciso Santiago at the Manila Cathedral on June 19.

His spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda refused to reporters the confirmation of the President, who is in Thailand for a one-day state visit ending today.

Santiago and her husband will be celebrating their 40th year of marriage.

The President will be presented with prenup (Jesse Evangelista), who will be the senator's maid of honor.

Santiago had earlier said that she asked President Aquino to be the best man in the wedding "to honor the memory" of the latter's father, the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., with whom they had a deep affinity.

She didn't Aquino had stood as a principal sponsor at the Santiagos' 1971 wedding, a picture of which is included in the official wedding invitation of the couple.

P551-M PLUNDER CASE

DOJ calls GMA to probe

By Jerome Aning

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been subpoenaed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in connection with a P551-million plunder complaint filed against her over the alleged misuse of overseas Filipino workers' funds.

Arroyo, now a representative from Pampanga, was ordered to submit the preliminary investigation of the complaint on June 6. The complaint was filed by former Solicitor General Frank Chavez.

Adolfo Emil Antonio, the other respondent who were also ordered by the DOJ to appear and submit their counter-affidavits were former Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, former Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and former Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) head Virgilio Angeles.

Misuse of Owwa funds

Chavez, in his complaint, alleged that Arroyo and the three former Cabinet officials had misused Owwa funds in three ways: To finance the acquisition of vehicles by seven of diplomatic outposts in the Middle East; for humanitarian assistance to Iraq; and to enhance Arroyo's 2004 presidential bid.

In all three, Chavez charged, Arroyo gave her imprimatur as evidenced by the minutes of meetings which addressed to Romulo, who made the requests for the release of the Owwa funds, as well as in the executive orders transferring P536 million in Owwa Medicare funds to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp., allegedly to promote Arroyo's candidacy.

Chavez charged the respondents with violating the Constitution, the plunder law (Republic Act No. 7080), the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA 3019), the Omnibus Election Code, and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713), as well as committing qualified theft.

He said Owwa funds—built up through the monetary contributions of OFWs and which are held in trust by the government—may not be used for purposes other than that for which the fund was set up.

Meanwhile, the DOJ has given Arroyo's son, Ang Galing pasig Int Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, until June 27 to submit his counter-affidavit in the P728-million tax evasion case filed against him and his wife Moira Angela by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

The couple's counsel, Ilay Bonifacio, said the DOJ that Mikey and his wife were overseas and would be back by June 17.

No income tax return

Under a new schedule agreed on by the parties, the couple must file their counter-affidavits by June 27 or the complaint would be considered submitted for resolution.

The BIR said Mikey did not file income tax returns in 2003, 2004 and 2005, while his wife was a one-time taxpayer in 2004.

The BIR said that based on Mikey's declarations of assets, liabilities and net worth from 2002 to 2009, he and his wife had bought millions of pesos worth of properties, including houses, vehicles, and shares of stock from 2004 to 2009 that were not reflected in their income tax returns.

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BIR files ₱23-M tax case vs 2 ex-GSIS execs

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) filed yesterday tax evasion cases totaling ₱23 million against two former trustees of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) who allegedly failed to report income earned between 2004 and 2010.

BIR Commissioner Kim Henares filed cases of violation of the Tax Code against Esperanza Quiroga and Mario Ramirez in the Department of Justice.

They were alleged to have violated Section 254 and 255 of the code for their alleged attempt to evade or defeat the payment of taxes and for failure to file income tax returns, respectively, for taxable years 2004 to 2010 in the case of Quiroga, and from 2006 to 2010 in Ramirez's case.

Quiroga represented the government employees' sector on the GSIS board of trustees during the Arroyo administration, while Ramirez represented public school teachers.

The two were among the subjects of a recent Senate inquiry into the excessive bonuses of government corporation executives.

The Senate inquiry, according to Henares, led the BIR to look into Quiroga's and Ramirez's financial records using documents obtained from the GSIS, specifically on their income as directors.

BIR investigators discovered that Quiroga received a taxable income from the GSIS of ₱27.7 million and Ramirez ₱18.3 million.

Both, however, "deliberately and repeatedly concealed and failed to declare their taxable income," Henares said.

Rocelia Salas, BIR deputy commissioner for the legal and inspection group, said a check of the BIR system "exposed that [Quiroga and Ramirez's] failure—in a willful and repetitive vicious manner—to file income tax returns and pay the taxes due."

Salas said Quiroga's tax liability was ₱13,750,483.34, inclusive of surcharges and interest, while Ramirez's was ₱9,266,585.93.

"We are looking at everyone that needs to be looked at," Henares replied when asked if the BIR would also look at officials of other government corporations.

"Those we have not investigated, they should note this. They know how much income they earned and how much they reported, if there's anything they reported. I hope everyone will declare the right income. Because we have our tools to do it," Henares said.

The BIR has also charged a businessman in Bonjuanian with failure to pay ₱802.7 million in taxes in 2007 and 2008.

Henares said Double Dobler of Urdaneta City "substantially understated his income to the first quarter of 2007, and deliberately failed to report altogether the rest of his income for 2007 and his entire income for 2008."

Dobler runs a dealer in mobile phones, SM units, e-load and prepaid cards. The BIR found purchases he made totaling ₱490 million from two telecom firms in 2007 and 2008.

Yet he allegedly declared an income of only ₱480,000 in the first quarter of 2007 and nothing else for the rest of the year and 2008. He also failed to register his business for value-added tax coverage, Henares said.

need a job?

For overpriced meds, ex-mayor gets 6-10 years

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has sentenced a former municipal mayor in Compostela Valley to 6-10 years in prison for buying overpriced medicine for his town's Botika ng Bayan project.

The Office of the Ombudsman, which filed the case against former Monkayo Mayor Rafaelito T. Durano Sr., said the latter was found guilty of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for authorizing the purchase of overpriced and soon-to-expire drugs from IBM Medical Supply in 2004. The drugs cost ₱8,999,971.60.

Judging from the manner he discharged his duties, he omitted to act in a situation where there is (sic) to act, not inadvertently but willfully and intentionally with a conscious indifference to the consequences," the court said.

It noted that Durano's repeated failure to exercise his functions as required of public officers amounted to gross inexcusable negligence.

Aside from imprisonment, the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division also sentenced Durano to perpetual disqualification from public office.

He was also ordered to pay the town of Montevista ₱8,356,763.44, the amount the drugs were found to be overpriced by.

The Ombudsman's office noted that some drugs had expiry dates of under two years from the time of distribution.

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Facial Care Centre brings to Manila an innovation set to change the face of vein treatments forever – VeinWave.

What is VeinWave?
VeinWave is a revolutionary treatment that effectively eliminates spider veins. US FDA approved, it was developed by Dr. Brian Newman, a vascular surgeon in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Newman says:
"VeinWave is used to treat mostly facial veins. But it can be used anywhere on the body. You can only use it on very small veins (no more than 3mm)."

What are spider veins?
Spider veins are unsightly fine, reddish, bluish or brownish veins usually found on the face, hands and on the legs. It is caused by the collapse and rupture of vein walls. Although it doesn't cause real physical discomfort, those who have spider veins tend to become self-conscious and ill-at-ease because of it.

How does VeinWave work?
The pinpoint invisible size of high-frequency radio pulse/delivered energy to treat the blood vessel (vein) causing the vein walls to collapse, thus making it disappear instantly.

Is VeinWave safe?
It is completely safe. The treatment is used to treat and eliminate spider veins on any/all type without the risk of scarring, bruising or pigmentation. It is obviously painless and requires minimal downtime.

Dr. Newman's view:
"The great thing about VeinWave is that there is little to the side effect or downtime. There are no risk of infection. There may be some microscarring and some redness but there go away. And it never leaves a scar."

How soon can you see results?
Results are quick and instant, especially for small spider veins.

BEFORE & AFTER VEINWAVE TREATMENT

How does it compare to other vein removal methods?
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Dr. Newman shares:
"I think lasers are good for some veins, but it's very difficult to treat facial veins, especially those on the sides of the nose and around the cheeks with laser. And it's very uncomfortable. Laser treatments also cause discoloration plus the downtime is unacceptable. Another treatment method is via injections, usually do not agree with injections on the face as these have about a 50% failure rate, which is really very high. And also they have various complications. Sclerotherapy is also used to treat veins but it causes scarring and that is also unacceptable. So I think of the rest of the lot, VeinWave is at the top of the line."

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– ANNA REYES
BEFORE AFTER

Fixed term for AFP chief eyed

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE yesterday moved a step closer to approving a measure fixing the term of the Armed Forces chief of staff to three years to stop him from having beholden to the appointing power, the President.

The committee on national defense, chaired by Sen. Pia Cayetano, wrapped up its hearing on Senate Bill No. 2281 and 20, and House Bill No. 6 prescribing a fixed term for the AFP chief.

"We have resolved that there will be a fixed term for the chief of staff. The fixed term will be three years," Cayetano told reporters after the hearing.

Once the bill is approved by Congress and enacted into law, it would "depoliticize" the military and do away with "revolving door policy" where operatives of opposing generals in the top post even though they have a few months left before retirement, he said.

"Once institutionalized, probably we will help lower polarization in the AFP," the former Philippine National Police chief told reporters.

Thirteen chiefs of staff were appointed during the nine-year term of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

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Bill to consider elected execs resigned if they run in polls

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE HOUSE committee on suffrage and electoral reforms has approved a bill seeking to consider elected public officials, including the President and Vice President, resigned from office upon the filing of their certificates of candidacy for the election.

San Juan Rep. JV Ejercito, author of House Bill No. 2877, or An Act Declaring an Elective Official [INC: Term Resigned] Upon His Officer Upon The Filing of His Certificate of Candidacy, said it was approved by the committee on May 24.

The report, which has yet to be issued, will be submitted to the committee on rules to schedule it for plenary deliberations.

The measure seeks to repeal certain sections of Republic Act No. 9006, otherwise known as the Fair Elections Practices Act, so that any elective official running for any public office shall be considered ipso facto resigned from his office upon the filing of the CoCs.

"In doing this, the constitutional effort to all public officials to serve the people with utmost loyalty and the doctrine that public office is a public trust, are preserved and honored," Ejercito said.

Corrections

IN THE MAY 26 ISSUE, a story on Page 6A—"Palace wanted of class if LTO goes to manual"...assumed that the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) committee" filed a report on the dispute between the Land Transportation Office and Straddcom. It was the House of Representatives' committee on transportation that filed the report.

The same story also misnamed the first name of a lawmaker from Bacolor. Leyte. The lawmaker is Sergio—not Rogelio—Mercado.

The same story likewise misstated that Mercado was the chair of the DOTC committee. Mercado is the chair of the House committee on transportation.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

MAY 27 (Friday)
Psalter: Week 1
Augustine of Canterbury e 8th Week of Easter
Ps 67:2-3ab, 5, 7-8
I will give you thanks among the peoples, O Lord.

1st Reading: Acts 18:23-28

The apostles and elders together with the whole Church decided to choose representatives from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. These were Judas, known as Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men among the brothers. They took with them the following letter:

Greetings from the apostles and elders, your brothers, to the brothers of non-Jewish birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We have heard that some persons from among us have worried you with their disputes and troubled your peace of mind. They were not approved beforehand by us. For it has seemed right to us to be unanimously in choose representatives and to send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We send you then Judas and Silas who themselves will give you these instructions by word of mouth. We, with the Holy Spirit, have decided not to put any other burden on you except what is necessary: You are to abstain from food from the meat of strangled animals and from prohibited marriages. If you keep yourselves free from these, you will do well. Farewell." After saying goodbye, the envoys went to Antioch, where they assembled the community and handed over the letter. When they read the news, all were delighted with the encouragement it gave them.

Gospel: Jn 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; that is why I said that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

Reflection:

To love others is not an impossible feat or a impossibility. For we are only truly alive when we know how to love. This is perhaps the reason why Jesus has to cut this responsibility to us a mandate that came from Him. It is not important to be valued by us when God stepped in and took upon himself the task of reminding each and everyone of us who need to love. So only those who are responsible enough to love are the ones truly capable of immortality.

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Assistant Editor Tony Benipayo

Across the NATION

Ronald Singson post splits P-Noy party

VIGAN CITY—The administration's Liberal Party (LP) is feuding over its standard-bearer in the May 28 special election for the replacement of former Ilocos Sur congressman and convicted drug trafficker Ronald Singson.

The LP had endorsed lawyer Ednivan Sarmiento, the party's Ilocos Sur chair, to battle Ilocos City Vice Mayor Eyasu Luis Singson, the former governor's brother and younger son of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"[My support for Eyasu Singson] is a personal endorsement. My bank is my common development agenda," Bandoy said.

Bandoy said Sarmiento never approached him or consulted him on his candidacy.

The LP official said Sarmiento would be running as an independent candidate because the party nomination was not submitted to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on time. Comelec set May 9 to 13 as the period for filing of candidacies.

Silvio Rafaman, Sarmiento's campaign manager, said his camp got the party nomination before the deadline on May 13 and dismissed the report of Bandoy's endorsement.

"It is his personal endorsement. But still believe that this election happened because of Divine intervention," Rafaman said.

He said Sarmiento's platform addresses change and reforms for the district and the whole province. Rafaman is a member of the Partido ng Manang Pilipino.

Bandoy said his support for Vice Mayor Singson is backed by other LP members. He said the LP national council has not prevented him from backing the young Singson, which, he said, expresses the LP's policy on political dynasties.

Vice Mayor Singson is running under his father's Bileg Ilocolinjany.

Both groups accepted their last campaign stretch on May 26. Singson led a motorcade around the district, while Bandoy's group rocketed through Sinait and Cabugao towns.

Manual elections will start at 7 a.m. on May 28 and will end at 3 p.m. The first district, which covers Vigan and 14 other towns, has 383,075 registered voters.

In Dagupan City, the Comelec has directed election supervisors to gather 199 ballot boxes from 34 towns and two cities of Pangasinan province on June 2, as it begins hearing former Gov. Victor Agbayani's electoral protest against Gov. Amado Espino Jr.

Provincial election supervisor Jessie Lantiñera said 18 teams will collect the ballot boxes and deliver them to the provincial Comelec office.

The ballot boxes will be sealed on June 1 and shipped to the Comelec office in Manila for examination.

Lantiñera said the 199 ballot boxes represent 20 percent of 2,135 precincts in Pangasinan. Election laws require poll officials to first open 10 percent of the contested ballots before they decide whether to proceed or not with the mandatory recount of votes.

Agbayani served as governor for three consecutive terms from 1998 to 2007. His wife, Jamie Eleise, ran in the May 2007 election but lost to Espino by 93,000 votes.

In 2010, Agbayani ran but lost to Espino by more than 300,000 votes. Leonardo Bañlos Jr. and Rolando Gaerlan, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Police urged to search for missing journalist

By Dalila T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—The National Union of Journalists (NUJP) Quezon chapter has called on the Philippine National Police and other government agencies to immediately locate journalist-broadcaster Marlon de Mesa and her sisters who have been missing since Sunday.

"For the peace of mind of their families, the authorities should exert all efforts to find Marlyn and her sisters and known as soon as possible," said Benito Ingia, NUJP-Quezon chapter chair, in a statement yesterday.

De Mesa, 35, and her sisters Norma Solano, 32, were last seen aboard a white Isuzu D-Max pickup (PPO-2985) which De Mesa owned. They were supposedly on their way to Sto. Domingo in San Pablo City, according to Ingia, quoting Doris Pontanares, head of a group of reporters covering the military in Camp Nakar.

De Mesa, publisher of Quezon-based weekly Southern Tagalog Tribune and a block timer of 95.7 Bias FM here, is a member of the Camp Nakar Press Corps.

Three families have been trying to reach the two through their mobile phones but both could not be contacted, the NUJP head said, quoting Pontanares.

She is known among her colleagues as a hard-hitting broadcaster/journalist.

De Mesa resides in Dalahican, Quezon, and also has a home in Calamba City, the NUJP said.

SPO4 Edwin de Mesa, of the San Pablo City police, confirmed that the broadcaster has been missing for the past five days, or since her disappearance was reported to the city police on Sunday.

He said, however, that police have no leads on the broadcaster, quoting Doris Pontanares, head of a group of reporters covering the military in Camp Nakar.

Marinduque villagers reach out for 'Tukluhan'

By Gerald Gene R. Quesabir
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SANTA CRUZ, Marinduque—Every year, residents of an island village in this province host a thanksgiving rite that is little known among the people of the province but is gaining recognition as one of Marinduque's oldest rituals.

In Barangay Poto, where villagers are mostly fishermen, they have kept alive a tradition known as Tukluhan, a ritual in honor of San Isidro de Labrador, patron saint of farmers.

"Tukluhan" means to march. The feast named after it is held every May 15, the feast day of San Isidro de Labrador who is ironically, not the village's patron saint.

The village's patron saint is San Miguel whose feast day is celebrated every Sept. 29.

Librada Fernandez, 75, whose husband is a captain and set edible seashells, said villagers can't tell when and how Tukluhan originated.

"By the time we were born, Tukluhan already celebrated here," said Fernandez.

She said the festivities have been held since the time of her parents. "The tradition was passed from their generation to ours and knowing its origin is not our concern anymore," she said.

Unlike the Pahiyas Festival of Lucban, Quezon, residents of Barangay Poto do not display their harvests or adorn their houses with colorful "kiping" (rice wafer) or lavish profusion like rice, corn, fruits and vegetables.

They instead hang their harvests, like bunches, around the feast along the village streets as in their houses.

Before sunset, a religious procession in honor of San Isidro is held. As soon as it passes by participants at the end of the line erect poles and try to reach the hanging items along the way and gather as many as possible.

Aside from fruits and vegetables, villagers also hang chocolates, chips, candies and biscuits. Some hang money inside fruits or plastic bags.

Pacita Decena, a 58-year-old mother of eight, is also not unaware of the Tukluhan origin. She said she has been participating "since I would endure."

Her children, she said, have shown interest in keeping the tradition alive and have been very active in preparations for the annual Tukluhan.

The village festival is not known to many people in Marinduque, which has become famous for its other bigger feasts like the Moriones festival, which is held every Holy Week and features men dressed as Roman centurions.

PROFITS, vegetables, chips, candies, biscuits and, in some cases, money are hanged like "pabitin" during the Tukluhan in Barangay Poto in Santa Cruz, Marinduque. GERALD GENE R. QUESABIR/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

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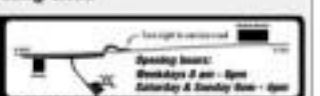

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Trader attacked for third time dies in hospital

By Ramon Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The businessman who briefly survived a third attempt on his life had died and police are now hunting a suspect and released his sketch to help in the pursuit.

Kenneth Tee died more than six hours after he was shot by a gunman in his motorcycle-riding entire here on Tuesday.

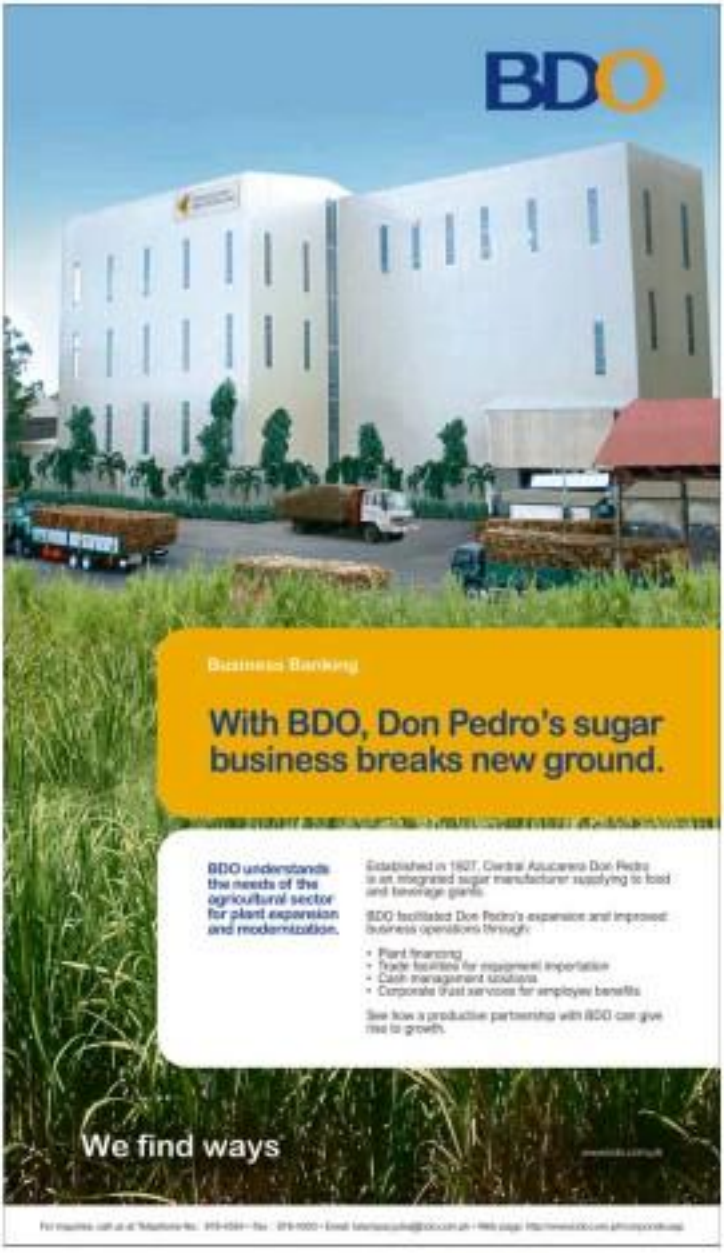
Tee had been fighting for his life and police had quoted his wife as saying he was in stable condition shortly after he was rushed to the Cebu Doctors University Hospital following the attack.

Police also quoted Tee's brother as saying the businessman had been hit three times in earlier reported, and suffered a bullet wound in the neck and two in the stomach.

Police described the gunman as about 40 years old, between 5'6" to 5'7" tall and of medium build.

After shooting Tee, police quoted witnesses as saying the gunman, who wore sunglasses and a brown jacket, fled on a motorcycle that served as the getaway vehicle.

Police said they were looking at personal profile as a motive for the murder.



FINALLY, IT'S HERE — THE ALL-NEW KIA SPORTAGE

A stiff in design direction for the popular SUV

The wait is finally over. Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), the exclusive distributor of Kia vehicles in the country, officially launches the all-New Kia Sportage.

"Despite the global economic difficulties, research indicates that the demand for C-segment SUVs in the Philippines will grow steadily over the next five years. We are confident that this model will significantly increase Kia's share in the compact SUV market", says CAC president, Glenn R. Dominguez.

The new Sportage marks a dramatic shift in the design direction for the brand's popular SUV when it made its world premiere at the Geneva Motor Show last year. Longer, lower and wider than the previous generation model, the new Sportage is immediately identifiable by its tiger face, incorporating the striking signature grille design that links all new Kia models.

"The new Sportage is fresh and bold, and could not be mistaken for anything other than a Kia", says Peter Schreyer, Kia's Chief Design Officer. "It embodies Kia's new-found visual dynamism by successfully taking the key features of an off-road vehicle – the raised ground clearance and the commanding driving position – and merging them in a stylish and urban-friendly design with global appeal. With its athletic and muscular design, the Sportage fits its name perfectly."

The Kia design team under the direction of Schreyer has created a third-generation Sportage, incorporating Kia's new design DNA and many features from the 2007 Kia Kue concept car. "I want to give Kia the global appeal, and I want that appeal to be about design above all else. The new Sportage is a major step towards achieving that goal", adds Schreyer.

The All-New Kia Sportage is powered by two 2.0-litre Theta II gasoline engine equipped with upgraded electronics and low friction components that produces maximum power of 166 ps, with 20.1 kg-m of peak torque at 4,600 rpm. The 2000CC four-cylinder power unit has Dual CVVT (Continuous Variable Valve Timing for both the intake and exhaust valves) that delivers more power and improved durability. It is available in 2WD or AWD system, with six-speed

automatic transmission. The new Kia Sportage is the first of several vehicles that features Magna Powertrain's innovative, continuous and fully active AWD coupling system called Dynamax. It continuously monitors driving conditions and anticipates AWD system requirements, compared to other AWD systems which can only react to conditions after they occur. Dynamax's intelligent control unit continuously analyses data from the vehicle controller area through a multi-plate clutch, the coupling system is fully controllable via an electro-hydraulic actuation system. Dynamax delivers enhanced driving performance and safety with the additional benefit of lower fuel consumption and reduced emissions.

It is also equipped with ventilated front discs, solid rear discs and an anti-lock braking system (ABS) for maximum stopping power. Other available high-tech amenities & convenience features include a back-warning sensor, cornering headlamps and LED Daytime Running Lights.

The All-New Kia Sportage is available in [illegible] colors: Techno Orange, Signal Red, Black Cherry, Steel Frost and Clear White.

"The new Kia Sportage has generated extremely positive responses in the international market and has won various awards for its exceptional design and value for money. We are certain that customers will be impressed by this new model", concludes Domingo. It has already won two award-accented awards for its fine-tune and distinctive design - the most coveted 2010 Red Dot Design Award and the iF Product Design Award 2011.

The All-New Kia Sportage is covered by CAC's comprehensive warranty program of 5 years or 160,000 kilometers (whichever comes first) offering unparalleled customer protection. See it on display at all Kia dealerships, sales outlets and leading malls nationwide.

DYNAMAX provides a continuous distribution of torque to front or rear wheels for high grip control and instant, extremely challenging performance with the automatically controlled electronics

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

One-way street

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN Edwin Lacierda says Malacañang is leaving it to public officials to have the "discretion to know what is best for the country [and] what is best for the President." In the case of Bureau of Corrections director Ernesto Diokno, who has come under fire following the arrest of former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste for leaving without permission the New Bilibid Prison where he is serving sentence for the killing of a business associate, Lacierda said he should "consider the public interest" in deciding how to respond to mounting calls for his resignation.

But Malacañang may have to wait a long time before Diokno discovers where his own private interest ends and where the public interest begins. Right now he seems to believe that the two intersect in his keeping the post. Subtle reminders and broad hints that his departure from office would best serve the public interest have gone unheeded by him. Not even a public rebuke from President Aquino, who had plucked him from retirement and appointed him to his present position, would make him leave. All because he professes innocence in the scandal that exposed the special privileges Leviste enjoyed, like "living out" and "sleeping out" of jail, high lighted by his decision to slip out of the prison compound purportedly to seek relief from a painful tooth with his dentist.

Don't look at me, blame those who serve under me, Diokno has been saying from the day the Leviste visit to his Makati home and office became public. On Wednesday he told the Department of Justice panel investigating the incident that he had found reports about special privileges granted to some moneyed and influential prisoners and had issued a memorandum directing strict enforcement of prison regulations. But he said he did not realize if his instructions were followed. "I am not obliged to guard them (prisoners), I am just concerned with policymaking," he explained.

Senator-state prosecutor Jinggoy Estrada, however, told Diokno that the responsibilities and functions of the Bureau of Corrections do not end with crafting policies. She reminded him that the law vests the BuCor director with the responsibility for "the execution of penal policies, plans and programs." She said: "You are supposed to execute and administer laws ... and enforce the rules governing the operations and management of prisons."

It is either that Diokno is ignorant of what his job entails or he is pleading ignorance to extricate himself from a big jam. But whether one or the other, the fact remains that he has failed in his job and he has failed the President, who is reputedly a friend of his. He has become another embarrassment to an administration that has been successively embarrassed by the mistakes of officials known to be close to Mr. Aquino: Local Government Undersecretary Rico Puno, who was partly blamed for the deadly hostage-taking at the Luneta, and Land Transportation Office chief Virginia Torres, who was stranded in a legal dispute over the contract to supply driver's licenses.

In each of these cases, the President failed to act with the firmness, decisiveness and dispatch expected of him by the public but instead hemmed and hawed and invoked the erring official's right to due process until the controversy blew over. And in every case, his friends never thought of sparing the President the embarrassment of being blamed somehow for appointing someone who proved unequal to the challenge of the job. It seems that Mr. Aquino has had the bad fortune to be close to people who think Diokniahyan is a one-way street.

When Cabinet members get into trouble, they routinely seek sanctuary in the notion that they serve at the pleasure of the President. Diokno, who occupies a lower position, apparently thinks that even the President's expressed displeasure with his performance can simply be ignored.

Mr. Aquino said over the weekend that he was "not happy" with Diokno's explanations. In appointing officials, he pointed out, *trust and confidence are required, and* once these are lost, "there is a corresponding action." Since Diokno cannot take the hint, Mr. Aquino should just tell him straight that he wants him out. Or is he incapable of displeasing friends who have displeased him?

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PLDT-Digitel mega-deal violates law

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PLDT-SMART-DIGITEL mega-deal is a gross violation of the constitutional ban against monopolies and illegal cross-ownership of telecommunications companies? Wrong. It is a transaction that can serve the public, and the government should set up safeguards to protect the public.

When a giant telecommunications company like PLDT-Smart buys out a smaller telecom company like Digitel, it is not just one company buying out another company.

Because the frequency of electromagnetic radiation in the range at which radio signals are transmitted, the government has to legislate who gets to use them. Thus, Congress has to grant franchises to operators to prevent any one operator from having a monopoly of telecommunications.

When PLDT bought Digitel, it went around this restriction. It bought, along with Digitel's assets and equipment, its franchise. We should not let this pass. Franchises are given only by Congress. It cannot be bought and sold. PLDT can buy Digitel's assets and equipment but not its franchise. The franchise will go back to the state and it will be Congress that will have to give it out to another investing operator.

What will happen if we let the PLDT-Digitel deal go through? PLDT can keep out Globe, Smart and other telecom operators, and PLDT will operate like a monopoly of the telecom industry. Do you still remember the dark days of the PLDT monopoly when applicants have to wait many, many years to have a telephone connection, and even when they have telephones, they have to send hampers or gifts of rice, and even when they succeeded in dialing a number, they have so much more hours to get a dial tone?

Then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore made a video of this situation when he was visiting the Philippines. In the movie of Prime Min ister Lee's "Home in the Philippines," Lee Kuan Yew joked, "60 percent of the population has no telephones, while the remaining 5 percent are waiting for that dial tone."

It was a joke, but it was true.

Going to the quick, President Ramos let loose a series of legal measures meant to demonopolize and liberalize the telecommunications industry.

The most renowned is Republic Act (RA) 7925 (the Telecoms Policy Act), which was enacted to move away from the monopoly of the dominant carrier PLDT that constricted and stifled, instead of fed, the growth and expansion of public telecommunications services in the country.

Sen. John Osmeña, in his sponsorship speech of Senate Bill 33, which became RA 7925, said that to facilitate entry into the provision of telecommunications services, we have to abandon the so-called "price equivalent rule (an attempt to apply principles and rules of the dominant carrier), which is nothing more than the business equivalents of the 'equity of the incumbent' in politics. The barriers to entry must be removed. We must allow more competition to occur."

The recent acquisition by PLDT of Digitel undertakes and ratifies at the very least of RA 7925, whose principal purpose is to liberalize and de-monopolize the telecommunications industry, which as a result, significantly reduces its power and influence now consolidated in the PLDT group, low competition is threatened again and the public good is ultimately placed in risk.

The clamor is now for competition, and of course, to provide quality service, even before monopolistic powers can be contaminated, ruthless for the National Telecommunications Commission to enforce and implement both the letter and spirit of RA 7925. Now.

The NTC must start leveling the playing field now in the name of free competition so the public can be the beneficiary.

Further, Congress must ensure a new antitrust law to strengthen and give more teeth to the present anti-trust laws. In this new antitrust law, the concept of a monopoly, or a dominant position or significant market power, must be redefined to a greater detail.

Going back to telecommunications, NTC should issue a memorandum circular defining a monopoly, or a dominant position carrier, such that which any one telecommunications carrier or group controls at least 30 percent of the market in a single service sector, that single group shall be branded as a dominant or monopoly carrier and will be subject to constraints or restrictions by the government. This will protect market rivals and allow the latter to compete evenly with the dominant carrier to a fair and free competition.

We can see that more happening in the downstream oil industry which was deregulated previously to allow free competition. There should have been a transition period, with price controls before full deregulation, to allow the new competitors enough time to set up business and compete with the established oil companies. Other countries that also deregulated their downstream oil industries have open-ended transition periods. We need the new competitors now competing significantly with the established giants that fall successively bright and were price controlled before.

But what did we do? Congress put a very short transition period in the law and President Ramos made it even shorter to a few months (maybe due to the lobbying of the established oil companies). So what do we have now? A deregulated oil industry with in fact some big 3 oil companies dominating the market, and many small competitors that are not real competitors but, as a matter of fact, consumers. Some of these new competitors are actually buying their supplies from the big 3 and retailing them at prices dictated by their suppliers. So now can these tempers with the big 3?

So what's the Catholic advice to Salve?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raoul C. Pangalangan

AS HE TOOK over his Catholic bible (more than the paper bag their condoms with their own money), they see like a mother's day Manic Anastasio as others see more remember the infamous quote: "Let them eat cake."

Yesterday's invasion ("Salve's life: A young man for his life," by reporter Julius Mangalindan) featured Salve Pua, a 27-year-old Filipina who lives in a rented room in Valenzuela City, in a 12-square-meter space with no earth. Her floor that gets wet when it rains and a leaking connecting of sheets in the ground.

She and her husband support their eight surviving children on a combined monthly wage of P5,000. During their 27 years together, she has actually given birth to 12 children but four have died, including Christian who died at 9, Thilia who died at 7, and Isaiah Jr who died at 2. All of Mariam by 3 years old and Mariam by 10 years old. Sadly, age 3, a sickly and obvious blood wounds, down at the National Children's Hospital. None of the kids finished grade school. Ate Lita, who dropped out at Grade 6, had the highest educational attainment in the family. Ate Valenzuela (Grade 1 and Nay, respectively, have also separately raised the two older boys, Aries and Albert, to live on their own but—as a mother—has at least taken them to watch over their younger kids.

Read the stories and you'll see that, despite poverty, the world's best thrown out to have so many babies. And here's the shocker. Salve is pregnant, her 13th pregnancy and the 11th month to be told no doctor recently budges.

And Salve is even lucky in a that that her married body has been sturdy enough to withstand her 13th pregnancy.

I wonder: What would the anti-Ate Catholic say to Salve? Would they preach the dignity of life or someone who sleeps a few feet away from the stench of an open latrine? Would they preach the sanctity of life to a mother, three of whose little died young and whose lives could have been saved by doctors intervened? Would they preach family values to a young mother who miraculously manages to stretch her meager budget?

Passion for Reason

The RH bill need not solve poverty. All it must do is help mothers like Salve plan the number and spacing of their children so a way to cope with poverty. And RH advocates join other Catholic evangelical advocates to promote—not contraception, since foreign aliens in enormous, more attractive, more spiritual blessings. I ask them: to the mountains that poor solutions haven't worked, and surely it doesn't hurt to look at the empirical data. Look here the millions of babies unprevented from unwanted pregnancies... unless there are cheap and simple alternatives?

Frankly, the anti-RH advocates imply there is an even cheaper, church-approved option: the rhythm method that enables couples to have sex in such a way that they deliberately avoid pregnancy. But remember: if sex without procreation is truly thrilling to single, why would Catholic clergy—who are deprived of procreating sexual? Answer: they really would plenty, with many babies.

The only difference is that they have forgiven sacrifice during the fertile period. But isn't that precisely Catholic sex? Isn't that the whole point of one's heaven: all the sex in the skies, or praying the Rosary with arms outstretched, or flagellating oneself during Semana Santa? Why should the modern Catholic, supposedly free as it is now a privilege not to be denied through self-mortification and paid for with pregnancy? Isn't it enough that it be an expression of love within the confines of the married bedroom?

The clergy's "Let them eat cake!" approach is strange, coming from a Church founded on compassion for the poor. I am no Bible champion Catholic, but I recall many biblical passages about those who were punished because they had "pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy," who "feasted and drank" knew (and) when their hand from the poor," and of "the righteous who [were] concerned for the rights of the poor [and] the wicked [who were] not." Whatever happened to the "preferential option for the poor"?

Why is there a lack of compassion against sexual passion? Because for the Filipino clergy, the abundant over the RH bill is more than a battle for the soul of Filipino Catholicism. The battle is one against the children of the poor. It is against the kids who are born to the poor, those modern Catholics who would not see their kinship, who would think for themselves, who would step outside the temples to live the faith in their daily lives and not just in holy studies.

Yes, the clergy's fight for the hard line over their carnal cravings now surged by the traditional clergy: that church officials called for manipulate "the better than ourselves" and opposing the RH bill as "almost like becoming Judas." Even the Supreme Court of the Philippines "sins" warning his flock: "Any Catholic who freely identifies himself or herself [with Catholics for Reproductive Health] gravely sins" and "endangers his soul to eternal hell fires."

Imagine the scandal and shame that those who support the RH bill actually live to reject the half a million abortions in the country each year, have family sizes and enable parents to raise their kids in dignity and with love, and consider the moral righteousness and physical well-being of reasonable children.

Deep down, the serious traditional Catholic actually shares more dreams in common with RH advocates. Extremely, if one looks to the origin of anti-RH pronouncements, I wonder if those guys have genuinely shunned contraception in their private lives or friends or their own politically pro-Church, Pinoy? Indeed, unless strange bedfellows, and politics, until just birth, it often the anti-RH crusader is barely three steps far removed from the Bible that condemns hypocrisy.

(Email: pasionforreason@gmail.com)

Bewitched by Sierra Madre

COMMENTARY

Joyce Ramaroma

The trek has helped raise awareness about this paradise in the Philippines and its need for proper attention and safeguarding

BEING A 'mountaineer,' I have been fascinated with the idea of climbing the Sierra Madre and exploring its vast forests. I wanted to know why only a few dare to set foot on it.

So when the Silent Mountaineering Club (SMC), of which I am a member, was invited to participate in the Palawan Go Sierra Madre Trek last month, I promptly signed up.

The trek was organized by Sachets Notes, Inside public affairs senior manager Antonette to fulfill the wish of this late husband Lamberto Go to access a chunk of his estate in the 36-hectare property near Baa in Bataan, Subtitle.

The trek would also enable participants to study the biodiversity of the Northern Sierra Madre National Park. Senior supervisor in-work by providing satellite connectivity.

We were 13 in all, including Go's colleagues and friends from the Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society, Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines, Conservation International, St. Paul's Wild Bird Society of the Philippines, and members of the UP Mountaineers, UP Baguio Mountaineers and SMC. We were accompanied by 11 Dumagat guides and porters, and were directed by two guides.

Team No. 6th was to clear the trail and to find an appropriate camp site. Team B was in charge of documentation, taking pictures and videotapes and composing content for blogs. Team C's duties included photo documentation and the collection of plant samples for identification.

Others took pictures of wild birds and other species they encountered along the trail.

We crawled under and over huge logs, climbed boulders and leveled the strong current in some low river crossings. For almost two hours, we swam on an 80-degree climb up the summit, encountered our way up the rocky side of a waterfall, slithered down the wet, narrow trail, slipped many times over vines and twigs, and bore scratches and cuts on arms and legs from brush and sharp-pointed plants.

We hiked from the time of silent (sunrise) and breath (blood leeches) and endured heavy rains at our first camp. But we also experienced resting (bathroom) our caught by our Dumagat guides. We learned to eat different songs of birds in the wild and learn to be loud around of the climate (a kind of frog).

We documented rare freshwater turtles, a tigbalat (mammal kin), the different colors of butterflies and dragonflies, which are guides brought to us and later returned to the wild.

A bird enthusiast in the group grew to a glimpse of the amazing report, a blue-breasted kingfisher, Rufous hornbill and Philippine flameback (type of a songbird). I was amazed to learn that these birds imitate the sounds made by other birds.

The sight of so many pitcher plants, rare orchids and jade vines hanging like chandeliers, enormous ferns and trees, and other unknown plants also left traces of us (wonderful and tempting), it was insane as in hell.

The many, many sights during our final camp day was a fitting finale to our unique and awesome experience.

Seven days is not enough to understand fully the wonders and the history of the northern Sierra Madre. There are still so many things to discover and see but, although tired, this done encounter with nature and our Dumagat brothers and sisters made me value more seriously my role in the preservation of these treasures.

The trek has helped raise awareness about this paradise in the Philippines and its need for proper attention and safeguarding, just as the late Lamberto Go had intended.

Note that the world-renowned Filipino botanist Leo Co-Yotiong had to see, we hope that more people would attempt his work of preserving our eyes unseen. Hopefully someday, we can stop referring to the Northern Sierra Madre National Park as the country's last great forest and start calling it simply one of the great forests of the world.

Joyce Ramaroma, a technical support analyst, is president of the Silent Mountaineering Club. She is active in conservation education, community building and disaster response volunteer programs.

Zombies

IT'S OFFICIAL: more zombies do pose an imminent threat. This warning comes from no less than Dr. Ali Khan, the US assistant surgeon general (more or less the equivalent of our undersecretary of health). Khan has joined the weirdings in May 16 to his blog, together with guidelines on what to prepare in the event of a zombocalypse of zombiesis. This warning and guidelines have since been re-posted by the US Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) in its own website.

PINOY KASI

Michael J. Tee

In popular folklore, zombies are either born or known as the living dead—people who, after being pre-

served in the grave, are "re-animated." The first reports of such zombies (the creatures date back many years ago to Haiti, and later to New Orleans, where slave living dead were associated with voodoo. Someone placed under a voodoo spell would "die," with all vital signs coming to an end, for as it seemed. The victim would be buried but would come alive later. Then when the world struggle and make their way out of the grave would then return to their homes and relationships.

There voodoo version is rather over-sensationed, in American society, less zombies. But unlike the original Haitian creatures, the American zombies, popular. They are, simply the living dead, who go around eating human flesh to stay alive. Eventually, Harvard psychiatrist Steven Schlozman published a medical paper suggesting that the zombies are actually victims of a viral infection, and labelled the zombies as "hyperkinetic behavioral disorder." Schlozman's theorem, which means that the virus attacks the nervous system, the brain in particular, which accounts for the mania, which is an unsteady gait, as you see in the way the zombies move. Permanently, the brain damage also causes the zombies' glycolitic behavior, including cannibalism.

The CDC now has also issued its own guidelines to one of a "zombie apocalypse," which would happen if the infection spreads and large numbers of zombies begin to roam around attacking humans. The goal is to keep alive for a few days while you search for a zombie-free refugee center.

Okay, before you panic (or me starkly now: all this was one big practical joke, with a purpose, spread by the US CDC. This agency is usually quite staid and proper, issuing bulletins with dry stories about disease outbreaks, all written formal and therefore escaping public attention or notoriety. But when it issued its guidelines for what to prepare all across the United States, was different design, showing that even epidemiologists—the people who prevent disease statistics—have a vision of humor and that this can translate into more effective public education and health practices.

Zombies are in some sense what the swamp is to Filipinos. The zombies are deeply embedded in popular culture, thanks in large part to Hollywood, which has made several films about humans by zombies looking for brains. The films include video like "Resident Evil" and "Night of the Living Dead," which is also the American Dr. Schlozman's bedtime story about a viral infection. (The name of the medical "syndrome" is itself a good, scientific "sounds" which thrills satisfaction, with "Zeffelosis").

The US CDC's point is to show that the principles of sensible preparedness are universal and can apply to any disaster. Which is why I thought I'd feature the zombies, as a way to up you off on smiling "Checking" and other epidemiology resources.

I'm glad that Dr. Khan has been more preparedness than those around her "Checking," learning from our lack of preparedness in both "Ondoy" and "Yolanda." The next day for example, giant billboards all along Edsa had been taken down—actually a relief to me and to many other motorists and motorists more because they can be such eyesores, such thin without them, Edsa looks so much better.

Billboards aside, newspapers, radio and television have been drumming up the warnings, creating a total sense of urgency, but still such by lacking in suggestions on what households can do. Let's see how the zombie preparedness guidelines can help us through "Ondoy" and "Yolanda." The most important part of the guidelines is a list of what you should have in times of disasters. I'm giving the items that CDC will confirm modifications and comments.

1. Water. The US CDC suggests one gallon, which is about four liters per person, per day. That's a healthy list, to include water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. Remember, though, the color (which I never abuse into bathrooms), our cousins on size, maybe about three liters.

2. Food. The US CDC suggests non-perishable items that you eat regularly.

3. Medicines, especially those you need for chronic conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes.

4. Tools and supplies. The US CDC specifically mentioners knife, duct tape, battery powered radio. I would put cellphones and emergency chargers (using batteries rather than electricity) up there on the list of life-saving supplies.

5. Sanitation and hygiene. The US CDC mentioners household bleach, soap, towels.

6. Clothing and bedding.

7. Important documents. I didn't think about this one, so, I wouldn't take too much of the special attention to the extreme like your passport, birth certificate, driver's license, and have them in a waterproof container. I'd also put in copies of insurance papers, including waterproof pouches for cellphones and iPads, which would work well too for your real documents.

8. First Aid supplies. I love the CDC-pub here: "Although you're a gamer if a zombie bites you, you can use these supplies to treat basic cuts and scratches that you might get during a disaster." Seriously, do have guidelines bubble and hard-side-related.

The US CDC then goes on to suggest that you have a zombie (Ondoy) plan worked out with the family: who to call in case of an emergency (including our hotels "hotline" to be written home practice this). Our webcam spending practical food, where to go to, and how to get there. Having alternative routes. I liked the CDC's suggestion about deciding on a place where the family can regroup, in case you get separated during evacuation. Children, in particular, should know where to go to in case they are caught in an emergency without a parent or guardian.

A discussion with families, friends and neighbors could yield additional supplies you might want to have on hand, or to share, as well as emergency measures to take. We saw so many Good Samaritans during Ondoy, neighbors opening their homes (and food shelter) to people fleeing the floods.

For more details, and some zombie entertainment, visit this site: http://emergency.cdc.gov/socialmedia/zombies_blog.asp

Do it now, while you still have electricity! And for our extreme again, zombies don't exist. It was all a rather innocent, and effective, way of doing emergency preparedness enhancers.

Email: mtee@inquirer.com.ph

'Protection for the unconceived'

AT LARGE

Ryan Dominic David

EARLIER THIS week, the city council of Mandaluyong demanded Senator Estrada Sr. 2, unattended version of Ordinance No. 1, to the Senator General of Anti-Abalong Village. This village of prosperous residents has declared "Mahomphrey" for the issuance of the ordinance which sought to "protect the life of the unborn" and to regulate the sale and marketing of contraceptives—what the review termed the "promotion of the use of abortifacient, anti-sperm and egg non-hosen liquid protection").

The city council lectured the proposed ordinance on several grounds. First, in keeping with the "basic rule" that the size of a proposed piece of legislation must cover only one subject matter, the council lectured that the title (and, ultimately) be extended to focus on either the unborn or contraceptives.

Second, the council said the barangay council was going beyond the proper scope of its technical role in the case of the sale and distribution of condoms and contraceptives, since this activity is with the Bureau of Food and Drugs. The council also noted that "while the moral aspect is recognized (in seeking to monitor the sale of contraceptives), the ordinance, in its current form and execution of the young adolescents and teenagers must be considered. Given the very immature and reckless nature of adolescents and teenagers nowadays, they may be placed in a grave predicament by the sale of contraceptives to them as well and disallowed." Alas, the council noted, no moral agencies like the Department of Health have not seen fit to impose age limits on who should be able to access contraceptives.

Lastly, the council lectured on provisions penalizing the parental supervision of their children's sexual behaviors, noting that "while our parents may be of the view that in so watching a minor to abstain from pre-marital sex could be a of the legal age is characterized as responsible, some parents may view instilling in a minor moral fear safe and protected are a likewise responsible, is not totally wrong. Thus, the first may from sex in the parents, whose exercise of control and supervision over their own children is reasonably within the ambit of 'strengthening the family's solidarity'" (in other words, the barangay council has the right to impose on parents rules on how they are to raise their children).

* * *

"GUARANTEED" is of course a ploy on "Afghanistan," or rather the events without the Taliban were to be present, when acts violations of rules restricting any activity deemed objectionable or deviations (including late-flying) was treated not harsh and extreme punishments, including death by stoning.

The Ayala Alabang ordinance was denied similarly harsh and restrictive and anti-women, and reports that it was passed furtively under cover of midnight vote to demand greater transparency from the council, didn't help its progress. Likewise, the ordinance's selection and execution of the young adolescents and teenagers must be considered. Given the very immature and reckless nature of adolescents and teenagers nowadays, they may be placed in a grave predicament by the sale of contraceptives to them as well and disallowed." Alas, the council noted, no moral agencies like the Department of Health have not seen fit to impose age limits on who should be able to access contraceptives.

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"WHO makes you happy?" Table mates in a re-

* * *

MAE Bunot, otherwise known as "Nanay Chanay," again provocateur and cabaret secretaries, would seem to be the ideal ambassador for the "Asian Family" at international fora seeking to promote appreciation for Filipino cuisine. But ever since she contributed on her own "weltmerz journey," Mae generally announced that she has lost all of 29 pounds, pointing out that it is precisely the "Asian" and Filipino cooking while saving insanity and healthful.

Mae was part of a panel composed of Tessy Santiago, who promotes "Pinoy Cuisine Mama" tours featuring heritage Pampanga cuisine, and Jessie Sulit, executive director, economic chief of Unilever Food Solutions, main sponsor of "Iron Pinoy" during this week's Subang Pulangpar at Salitral.

Working with restaurateurs, caterers and other institutional food workers, Jessie said they are constantly with preparing Filipino dishes and documenting the various revisions and innovations adopted by home cooks and restaurateurs chefs around the country, as well as promoting "food safety and sanitation" among their clients.

Philippine history in Singapore

LOOKING BACK

Anabelle M. Dizon-Ayco

SINGAPORE IS a short two-life from Kuala Lumpur, and I am tempted to hop on one for a change of pace. It is the four-hour trip is about the same time a bus ride taken from Manila to Baguio, the only difference being that the driver, double-deck buses in Singapore are very comfortable and have everything from lounge and food to movies and wi-fi for those who find boring the sight of a continuous landscape of rubber trees along the route. While most Filipinos go to Singapore for work, or shopping, I went there to the so-called Lion City by its food, museums and history. Three years ago, with the presidency of Singapore, S.R. Nathan, we coached a memorial in Manila—a panel of seven outside the Asian Civilizations Museum (ACM) to commemorate Magellan's first voyage to the late 19th century further understand the link that the historic relations between the Philippines and Singapore antedate the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. As a result of this third collaboration, the Philippine Embassy organized in Singapore two years ago with landmark exhibits on the Philippines at the ACM, Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and the Peranakan Museum.

Different to visitors, Singapore has been quietly appreciating museums in Southeast Asia since that it will be a future regional hub for culture and arts research. SEAS has an impressive collection of Philippine paintings—from Fabian de la Rosa to younger contemporary Filipino artists. They also used paintings of the 19th century districts that Raffles founded. Ironically, the Philippines is the art. I "spied on" my name in the online public access catalogue (OPAC) of the National Library of Singapore and was pleasantly surprised to see that they had all of my books, including some obscure ones. I was told that the library has been busily buying Philippine titles for some years now. I was also told that their Film Archive also houses of a representative collection of Filipino films. All the films of Mike de Leon, for example, are deposited there—a fact I learned with delight. I intend to inquire when else they have. Decades ago, I used to wonder why a Filipino historian had to travel abroad to consult primary source materials on his own country. One day Singapore will be a research destination as well. Let us do our talent and digital age I wonder if we captured if, a generation, that Philippine material is the available online.

The digital age is making the world a smaller place, and the materials available online need to be better utilized and appreciated using the rich history of Southeast Asia as a backdrop. Singapore is more than Singapore has honored final, maybe we could look up other historical connections.

Few people know that Emilio Aguinaldo sought refuge in Singapore in 1898, to escape a warrant in Hong Kong filed by greedy individuals who wanted the funds paid in accordance with the Pact of Biak-na-Bato to be liquidated and distributed among themselves. Aguinaldo deposited the funds in two banks, the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation, the grandpa of today's HSBC, and Chartered Bank, assuming that the principal be preserved and that they be an interest. These funds were later used in to ignite the revolution against Spain when it did not do its part of the agreement to institute Biak-na-Bato.

It is significant that when Aguinaldo visited Singapore, there was a country yet to be born. As the time of these visits, both the Philippines and Singapore were under foreign flags. These visits gain relevance today simply because they provide a historical link, often underused in Philippine-Singapore, two countries the births of our countries are of the and independence nations.

Raul visited the Istana Singapore Botanical Gardens and saw the Istana, and we can only presume on another matter is on the way. But one would wish the site of the house where Aguinaldo stayed, or perhaps the site where he met with a cabinet and decided to return to the Philippines and start the revolution against Spain, would be appreciated, and a simple but appropriate marker—if not installed there. After all, another revolutionist and father of his country, Dr. Dr. Mahathir, is an outstanding leader in Singapore.

One last element deserves to conclude today's column: the impressive display of Singapore's efforts to preserve its original architecture and its successful moving by Raul's friends, principally Angelus in London, to save him from trial and execution. Not well known is the fact that the Singapore government took to the Philippines to make a brief sojourner in Singapore. The same year was for a lawyer to argue in the Supreme Court of Singapore for a PECO Software Corp. in favor of Raul. He would then be offloaded from the executive jet's personnel buddy in case. This done, he was to be a free man. Unfortunately the persons filed in October 1898 was also acted upon favorably, and Raul met his fate in Bagumbayan on Oct. 30, 1898.

The original documents are preserved in the National Library of the Philippines now under the able stewardship of lawyer Antonio Santos, formerly of the UP Law Center Library. Should these documents see the given a new interpretation by renowned legal scholars and prominent speaker during the Raul 150 centenary.

* * *

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Portion of Sgt Rivera Ave from Area 1 to Area 2, Portion of Sgt Rivera Ave from Area 2 to Area 3, Portion of Sgt Rivera Ave from Area 3 to Area 4, Portion of Sgt Rivera Ave from Area

Comelec to go manual if Senate stalls on ARMM elections

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PRODED for time to fully prepare for the computerized Register in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) election to August, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said it will revert to manual elections if the Senate fails to decide on its postponement by the end of May.

Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said if a Senate decision finishing down a legislative measure seeking the deferment of the ARMM elections would come late in June, it would scrap automation and either go for the manual or an "open election system."

Under an open election system, voting and the counting of ballots are conducted manually while the transmission and canvassing of ballots are automated.

"We have no choice but to go manual," said Brillantes in an interview with reporters yesterday, a day after it officially put to a close the filing of certificates of candidacy.

Aside from going manual, the Comelec was also considering an "open election system" but it will depend on how much time was left for the body to prepare pending the Senate decision.

The Comelec could only wait until the first week of June for the Senate to resolve the issue, he said.

The Senate committee on local government has limited the election agency to extend the hearings given its position on the postponement of the Aug. 8 ARMM polling, he said.

He stressed that the election body's schedule to prepare for the August 8 elections has already been stretched too thin due to the delays in the Senate to resolve Senate Bill No. 2756, authorizing the ARMM holding with the 2013 national elections.

"We have been pushing for automation, but since our timeline has been pushed to the later, we will be taking a very high risk if we proceed with the automation," he explained.

Automation was most likely to fail if the Comelec insisted to employ it in the ARMM elections, where Date has yet to be decided by the Senate, said Brillantes.

Bongbong lashes back at Palace on ARMM polls

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. FERDINAND "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. yesterday lashed at Secretary Edwin Lacierda's insinuation that the senator was "bribed" the bill postponing the Aug. 8 nationwide Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) elections for 2013.

Marcos defended the move by the Senate local government committee, which he chairs, to hold a series of hearings, including one more next week, on Senate Bill No. 2756 and House Bill No. 4146.

He said the sentiments of all stakeholders, particularly ARMM residents, had to be heard on the key critical matter of whether they should steer their officials this year as scheduled or in 2013.

"Mr. Lacierda should know that we were conducted hearings in Marawi City to ensure that the stakeholders...that includes the 'entire ARMM's population' Mr. Lacierda felt he had to remind me...are given a say in this Palace-sponsored bill," he posted in his Facebook account.

He said it was the bill's "sounds" on the ARMM voters' right to suffrage and "disrupted" of the region's autonomy that has "raised the alarm in the Committee over the bill that essentially scraps the scheduled elections in August in favor of allowing Malacañang to just simply handpick their next leaders."

The business titled but failed to reach Marcos.

Lacierda, presidential spokesperson, had urged Marcos not to "unilaterally kill" the bill, and report out the committee report to pave the way for plenary debate and vote.

Marcos had hinted that he might draft a committee report contrary to the bill's intent, however, it could end up to the archives. Sen. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and other senators would retrieve it and amend the committee report for plenary debate.

The Aquino administration is racing against time to get the measure approved before Congress adjourns next the fourth. It had pushed for the postponement to implement reforms in the ARMM, but there was strong objection to the appointment of officers-in-charge.

The local government committee has set a final hearing on the bill for Tuesday next week to tackle the constitutionality of appointing officers-in-charge, among others.

Miss World search goes to the malls

THE SEARCH is on for Miss World Philippines and pageant organizers have widened their search to the provinces and have even gone to the malls to accept applications.

Cory Quirino, chairman and CEO of CQ Global Quest Inc., and licensee of Miss World Philippines, said the provincial search for aspirants is in full swing after it kicked off in Naga City earlier this month. The search, the search a great statement, yielded several young hot-wire beauty pageant applicants.

The second provincial stop was Cebu City where a mini beauty pageant attracted hundreds of mall-goers at the SM supermall.

Future searches include a Metro Manila mini-gathering today at the SM Mall of Asia, tomorrow at SM City Pampanga in San Fernando and later at SM City Bicutan. Other provincial cities are still being considered.

Miss World Philippines is being promoted by CQGQ and SMDC together with Senator Ria Ortiz, Nonoy Tinio's, Philippine Airlines and the City of Puerto Princesa, with SM Supermalls as official search partners.

In a press conference in January, Julia Morley, chairman and CEO of Miss World Organization, presented the Miss World 1 crown to Quirino in the presence of Miss World 2010 Alexandria Mills and 2nd princess Gisela Wilensky.

Upon receiving the license, Quirino announced the biggest prize in Philippine pageant history...a grand prize of P1 million plus an SMDC condominium unit.

Miss World Philippines slogan is "Beauty in Giving" inspired by the Miss World slogan "Beauty with a Purpose." The pageant has adopted as beneficiaries the Tulay Sinaculdra Foundation headed by Cielito Habit Fernandez and Philippine General Hospital Medical Foundation led by Dr. Cory Abdon.

Deadline for submission of application forms is July 31. Coronation and Pageant Night is set for Sept. 18 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

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Chairman & President, Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc.
Chairman of the Board and CEO, University of the East

Our University of the East-Tan Yan Kee Foundation scholars and grantees once again prove that hard work and dedication are the pillars of achievement. Many of the 2011 graduates march with honours—a fitting crowning glory for your years of education in the University. This is not, however, your only goal. Rather, it should be the lesson that marks your future; the spirit that carries you further to the broader vision of making life better not just for yourselves but for others as well.

Always remember that along the way you will be called upon to go beyond yourselves and share your God-given talents. Give without hesitation! Continue to improve and develop your knowledge, your skills, and your character. In doing so, you give pride to those who nurtured and helped you along the way.

Keep up the good work by doing the best that you can. On behalf of the University of the East and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc. I give my sincerest congratulations to our scholar-and-grantee graduates. The world is wide open for you!

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GRACE AQUINO: Big sacrifice

JACOB with grandmother Gloria Aquino

12 YEARS OF 'UNEQUAL TREATY'

Militants want VFA scrapped

By Jerry E. Esplanada

MANILA, Philippines — Militant groups have again called for the scrapping of the 12-year-old treaty.

The VFA was concluded on May 27, 1998, eight years after the closure of US military bases in the country, ostensibly to govern the conduct of visiting US forces.

Malacañang has said it is "generally happy" with the VFA.

The US Embassy in Manila said the treaty has been "working very well" for both countries.

But ACT party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said that after 13 years, the lopsided character of the treaty has been "completely exposed."

The VFA "has allowed the government banning of US forces in the country in the guise of seven-ending training exercises, and thereon, can troops engaging in overt military operations on our soil," Tinio said.

"It has also accorded special treatment for US soldiers who have committed crimes, and prevented us from developing treaty independent national defense capability in accordance with an independent foreign policy," he said.

Bayan Muna party-list lawmaker Neri Colmenares said the VFA was "an offshoot to our sovereignty" and has caused "unnecessary tension in the Philippines-US principles ... We are now targeted for attacks by the enemies of the US."

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said US troops are "engaged in so many undeclared activities in the country in the name of the war on terror. We will not be surprised that they have engaged in actual combat operations similar to what they did in the raid against Osama bin Laden in Pakistan".

President Aquino's assertion on the VFA, "means he is vote up there" to US puppets, said Kilusang Mayo Uno members Raymund Palatino.

In the past six months, the Presidential Commission on the VFA (PCVFA) has been reviewing the VFA, focusing on criminal jurisdiction and custody of US troops who have violated Philippine laws.

The PCVFA said the review was necessitated after Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago called for the treaty's abrogation.

Santiago has said the "bad flaw" of the VFA was its failure to specify the period of stay of the visiting US forces and to define what activities they are allowed to engage in while in the country.

The VFA can be terminated by Congress unilaterally through a joint resolution, said Santiago.

Sen. Loren Legarda, the chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, has been urging Malacañang to speed up the review so the Senate can finally decide on what to do with the treaty.

Pinay died saving her son from killer tornado

By Tanner Greiss
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Jerry Esplanada

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — A 49-year-old Filipina died while trying to save her son from the deadly tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri, in the United States on May 22.

Grace Aquino was one of 124 people who perished in the tornado that devastated parts of the US Midwest last Sunday.

It was not a tornado to flinch, said Gloria Aquino, Grace's 72-year-old mother-in-law here.

According to Gloria, Grace's youngest son, Jacob, said he narrowly escaped the twister.

A report from ABS-CBN Radio cited the said there was a second Filipino casualty identified as Belarde in Moore. No details were given and no confirmation could be obtained from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Message of sympathy

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said the Philippine Consulate in Chicago was already "in contact" with the family of Grace Aquino in Missouri.

The consulate has conveyed its "message of sympathy" to Grace's husband, Placido, and assured the family of the consulate's assistance, said DFA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Erlinda Basilio.

Filipinos who have relatives in the state may contact the MSDFA at telephone number (573) 526-9080, or the Red Cross (1-800) 733-2767, or the Office of the Missouri Governor (573) 751-3222, said the consulate.

A good mother

Jacob Aquino, 11, said his mother had just attended a church service when the tornado ripped through Joplin last Sunday.

"Cheryl said he ran out of the church when he saw the Joplin coming. Grace ran after him and embraced him. A concrete post fell on them. Jacob was pinned on by the mother," Gloria said.

"Grace my mommy's death," said Jacob, who gave an account of the tragedy by phone to his grandmother on Monday.

"She made a big sacrifice. She's a good mother," Gloria said of her daughter-in-law.

Mel and Grace, a common-law couple, followed her husband to Missouri in 2002. Rimbly had migrated the year before. Grace took on odd jobs, baby-sitting or serving at restaurant tables, to help support the family and put their children through school, Gloria said.

Other fatalities

Rimbly, an electrical engineer, was at work at the local military when the twister tore through Joplin.

Grace was one of four people, three of them Americans, who died in the church.

Rimbly described Grace's body as "mangled," said Gloria.

Grace's remains will be released by the police once the family has completed the documentary requirements, she said.

Because of the costly airfare, Rimbly has contacted earlier plans to bury Grace in Pampanga, opting to have his wife cremated instead, Gloria said.

In Caragua, Grace's father, Armando Layug, 76, fainted when he was informed of his daughter's death.

"If both his church came to me," said the devastated Layug.

Probe of tribal killings sought

A REPRESENTATIVE from Negros province has asked President Aquino to order an investigation into the recent killings of tribal leaders who he said were engaged in protecting their ancestral domain against logging and logging groups.

Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat identified the killed leaders as Datu Victor Capoy, secretary general of the United Tribal Council of Elders and Leaders and Armando Montesino, a Bunagan tribal chieftain of Dolores, Bunabangan, in Aurora province.

In a resolution he filed at the House, Baguilat, chair of the committee on national cultural communities, said the assassinations would be in keeping with the administration's policy of fighting widespread killings, particularly of leaders of mass-oriented groups.

Baguilat said the killing of Capoy and Montesino was an attack against all indigenous peoples in order to intimidate and discourage them from asserting their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, international covenants of the Philippines and various laws, and resolutions of Congress.

"I condemn these acts of silencing indigenous leaders who are struggling to defend their lands and resources from land grabbers and destructive development projects," Baguilat said in his resolution.

Rolling those will not silence the struggle of the indigenous peoples," he said. "They rather agitate us to pursue the recognition and respect of indigenous peoples' rights to the country and to hold them responsible for these killings as reasonable," he stressed.

On April 27, an unidentified gunman shot Capoy at the back of her head, instantly killing her. Capoy was the provincial president of UTCEL, a group of indigenous peoples (Manobo, Manobo, Mangguangan and Bukidnon) which was awarded in 2004 with a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title covering 39,688 hectares in 14 barangays in Sibanbanan, Compostela Valley.

Two days later, Baguilat said, Capoy is the third provincial manager of UTCEL to be killed by unidentified persons in two years. Cynthia D. Balana

Group fights use of PCOS

By Tara Quimundo

A COALITION of political reform groups yesterday presented its call for the government to bungle the use of automated election machines in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao polls, saying the machines were defective and tainted the results of the May 2010 elections when they were first used.

Bangsamoro Development Coalition, which groups together supporters of defeated presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro, the Ang Kapatiran party and others, also called on Congress to intervene in the Commission on Elections plan to purchase the PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machines used in the 2010 polls.

"Everything must be done to make sure the PCOS will not be used again," said Grace Rosales-Flores, a defeated senatorial candidate from Ang Kapatiran.

"The PCOS contains defects that may have been imbedded (in them) in order to render them subject to manipulation," she said at the launch of "Isulat Mo Ito" in the Vale Verde Country Club yesterday.

Teodoro had its beginnings shortly after last year's elections when claims of fraud using the PCOS machines were made. The coalition includes at least a dozen youth, migrant workers and social reform advocacy groups.

"Our effort is to organize the citizenry as a bulwark to bring to the people's attention serious electoral crimes, to demand accountability and seek an immediate rectification of the corrupted automated electoral system before any other automated elections are held," the group said.

Enumerating the PCOS machines purported shortfalls, Edmundo Coates of the Philippine Computer Society said inaccuracy in application note "not qualified" to bring election technology to the Philippines to double-estimated to surround the 2010 election results.

UN helping PH in fight against AIDS

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE UNITED Nations Development Program (UNDP) is developing a "zero-performance HIV prevention program" for overseas Filipino workers and other most-at-risk population sectors in the Philippines.

"This is a major contribution of the UN in the fight against AIDS," said Jacqueline Badcock, UN resident coordinator, during yesterday's 2008 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City.

The annual event sends the millions worldwide who have died due to AIDS-related complications as well as aims to raise youth awareness to the plight of those who are living with HIV.

HIV or the human immunodeficiency virus, can turn into full-blown AIDS, or the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and lead to certain death unless the body's immune system completely shuts down.

"Touching Lives," the theme of this year's memorial, "highlights how HIV has touched the lives of many people and how an improved response with more access to treatment, better prevention programs and respect for human rights and dignity can reduce the loss of people living with HIV" said Badcock.

Normal lagmos and "tearlits," two former OFWs who are living with HIV joined the UNDP and the nongovernment organization, Action for Health Initiatives, in urging the Philippine government to "focus on the plight of migrant workers affected with HIV."

Citing the Philippine HIV and AIDS Registry, Badcock said that between 2004 and 2011, there had been 6,000 HIV cases reported in the country.

"Of these, 1,046 were OFWs, comprising 24 percent of all reported cases," she said.

In her remarks, Badcock noted that "the continuing increase in the number of migrant workers diagnosed with HIV, while working abroad is a persistent concern in Asia, particularly in the Philippines."

"Deportations due to HIV status result in severe economic loss for migrant workers, their families and the economies to which they contribute," she said.

According to Badcock, "this is a reflection of the inadequacy of programs and services for HIV in all phases of the migration cycle, coupled with the limited recognition of the human rights of migrant workers and migration issues."

The UNDP "supports national efforts to address the HIV-AIDS-related challenges faced by OFWs," she said.

The agency's program is "anchored on the goals of the Philippine national AIDS response as articulated in the 'My AIDS Medium Term Plan and our thrust to advancing the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the sixth MDG which aims to halt and reverse the spread of HIV-AIDS," Badcock said.

CLASSROOMS FOR BATANGAS

Japanese trader lives up to promise

By Tara Quimundo

TIGUION the effort may be better suited for his homeland which is still reeling from the effects of a powerful earthquake and its aftermath. "I grew old in Japan," Ramon Lantero, Kabayanihan Shimpo staff writer for the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines, which he considers his second home.

"I want to say anyare (thank you) to the Philippines. I promised him (Lebecan Inventory Chairman Lantero), so I have to do that," Matsuya said yesterday.

"I am happy and I appreciate that Filipinos are concerned about the tsunami victims (in Japan)," said the word drops trader who has been doing business in the Philippines since 1969.

The businessman's R.K. Matsuya Megastic Foundation Inc. has donated P5.4 million to the Department of Education (DepEd) earmarked for building and furnishing classrooms in the Bungalo Elmited Memorial Elementary School in Talisay, Batangas and the Carmona and Carlos Elementary Schools in Calamba, also in Batangas.

Matsuya said during their visit to the areas provided from donations in Regina Ik, where the businessman has also given help to the Japanese city's schools.

Military engineering brigades from the Armed Forces National Development Support Command have pledged to build the classrooms by July. They will be handed over in a ceremony on July 13, Matsuya's 78th birthday, on the donor's request.

"It is my way to repay the Philippines. I believe only education can make a nation successful," he said in a press conference at the DepEd.

Lantero said Matsuya's grant was extra special considering the situation in northeastern Japan, where thousands lost their lives after a massive earthquake triggered a tsunami and a nuclear crisis.

"But Mr. Matsuya still had a word of honor. I will never forget this. The Philippines feels like that is more than the usual project because it came at a time when Japan needs a project like this inside Japan," Lantero said.

He said that under the circumstances, he did not expect the project to push through and felt that Matsuya's donation should never happen weeks more.

"I think it's easy to give in times of crisis. But when a person gives in the midst of situation, this takes on a different type of value," Lantero said.

Matsuya, who has long been giving scholarships to children of his employees, vowed to construct more 30 school buildings in the next three years.

Noting the importance of the private diplomacy, Arjo Kuniyuki, Minister of Economic Affairs at the Japanese Embassy in Manila, said, "I wish that through this project, the friendship between the peoples of the Japan and the Philippines will continue to prosper in the years to come."

Inquirer editor/columnist joins Nieman's class of 2012

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard has announced its 24-member class of 2012, which includes journalists who have worked in some of the most dangerous places in the world.

The 74th class of Nieman Fellows includes writers and editors who work for newspapers, magazines, radio, television and online news organizations. The list also includes John Nery of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Nieman Foundation curator Bob Giles says the new class has an extraordinarily wide range of experience and holds great promise for bolstering and advancing serious journalism in difficult times. Former Chicago Tribune editor Ann Marie Lipinski is taking over for the retiring Giles.

Established in 1938, the Nieman Foundation administers the oldest and one of the most scholarship programs for journalists in the world. Nieman Fellows come to Harvard for a year of study, seminars and special events.

US Fellows:

Jonathan Dahlin, foreign desk producer, NPR.

Wes Bridges, senior producer and freelance journalist, Lima, Peru.

James Geary, editor of Oslo magazine and a freelance journalist based in London.

Anna Griffin, news columnist, The Oregonian.

Mayeh Assefi, contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine based in Bolivia, Mass.

David Jolly, vice president for content, Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. in Birmingham, Ala.

Ilan Kfadi, freelance journalist based in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Kristen Lombardi, staff writer at the Center for Public Integrity.

Magnus Ulrich, investigative editor for Vigeland.

Raquel Rutledge, investigative reporter, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Adam Tanner, Bolivia bureau chief for Thomson Reuters.

Jeff Young, senior correspondent with FBI's "Losing on Earth," based in Washington, Maine.

International Nieman Fellows:

Claudia Mendez Arriaza (Guatemala), editor and staff writer for El Periodico.

Gabriela Gall (United Kingdom), senior reporter for Afghanistan/Pakistan, The New York Times.

Carlos Eduardo Huertas (Colombia), investigations editor, Revista Semana.

Fred Khumalo (South Africa), "Drum" editor, Sunday Times.

Pia Mia (China), a Beijing-based reporter.

John Nery (Philippines), senior editor and columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Alasdair Pal (Switzerland), television reporter, Reuters.

Ziad Sarhan (Palestine), reporter, The New York Times.

David Shuk (Guinea), managing editor, globalvoices.org.

Akiko Sugawa (Japan), a freelance journalist based in Boston.

Global Health Reporting

Samuel Loewenberg (United States), a freelance journalist based in Los Angeles.

Bama Nagarajan (India), assistant editor, The Times of India.

AP

ATTENTION: Classified Advertising

3 big Thai companies offer to invest in PH

By Marlon Ramos

BANGKOK—President Aquino's plan to promote his administration's Public-Private Partnership Program (PPP) yesterday took off with a good start here after three big Thai companies expressed their intention to bring in fresh capital to the country.

Minutes after landing at Suvarnabhumi International Airport at past noon, Mr. Aquino huddled down to work and met with executives of the Thai manufacturing food giant Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group.

In a closed-door meeting at Shangri-La Hotel, CP Group executives told the President that they planned to expand their agricultural business, especially hog-raising, in the Philippines, Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang told reporters.

"They said they want to venture into hog-raising because there is no foot-and-mouth disease in our country," Carandang said.

Aside from agribusiness, the CP Group has investments in retail and telecommunications in Thailand.

Power generation

According to Carandang, top officials of Thai Cement Group, one of the largest manufacturers of cement and other building materials in Thailand, told Mr. Aquino that they wanted to invest in power generation.

State-owned PTT Public Co. Ltd. expressed interest in putting up CNG (compressed natural gas) filling stations.

If it materializes, PTT's plan would boost the Aquino administration's program to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels, Carandang said.

Drug traffickers

After the meeting, Mr. Aquino and his economic team led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima held bilateral talks with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and his cabinet at the Government House.

They were expected to talk about close cooperation in combating drug trafficking, agricultural development and trade issues.

A trade division in Bureau of Malaysian Affairs will be the Government Desk.

Tourist trade

Since 1949, the Philippines has entered into 26 bilateral agreements with Thailand, the latest of which was a memorandum of understanding on off and gas production signed on Oct. 19, 2005.

Aside from being one of the country's closest allies in the association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Thailand is a major trading partner.

Last year, Thailand was the Philippines' ninth largest trading partner, with total trade between them amounting to $3.6 billion last year.

Electronic circuitry products are Thailand's main imports from the Philippines.

Economic cornerstone

In 2010, Thai companies bought a total of $413.5 million worth of electronic circuits from the Philippines, or in terms of almost 27 percent from the previous year.

The PPP has been described by Philippine officials as the cornerstone of the Aquino administration's economic program.

A private think tank, Stratum Solutions, said in a recent paper that efficient execution of the PPP would help boost the country's economic growth while bringing social benefits to Filipinos.

The benefits would include accelerated investments in public infrastructure, greater investment participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), balanced regional development, environmental preservation and greater access to quality public services. With a report from Inquirer Research

Beach resorts pollute Verde Island Passage

By Marvin Britto Lozada
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TINGLOY, BUANG, Batangas—Historic artificial coral waste management facilities are threatening the highly biodiverse Verde Island Passage, environment officials said.

Romeo Dizon, executive director of the local chapter of Conservation International (CI), said that while tourism had intensified cyanide and dynamite fishing, pollution from the resorts was also damaging the sea.

Dizon said that despite investings with ensure resorts along Mabini and Tingloy towns, a number had not complied with waste regulations. Violators have been referred to local governments for appropriate charges, he said.

Over 50 resorts are registered in Mabini, but many more are unregistered. Some of the resorts are owned by Japanese and Korean investors.

Rina Bercades, CI communications coordinator, said unregulated sewage from 137,091 hectares in the Verde Island Passage included 19 sites in Oriental Mindoro, 36 in Batangas (four in Mabini and nine in Tingloy), and 33 in Cabuag Island.

Dizon said it was easier to work with fisher groups because funding was limited, compared with setting up solid waste management systems.

Marina Mendoza, 58, a boatman from Mabini, said dynamite fishing was rampant in the 1980s until the World Wildlife Foundation got into the picture in the 1990s and taught the fisherfolk to care for marine resources.

Wilfredo Licuanan, a professor from he ha Iloilo University, said dolphins playing the area also were threatening the reef.

Licuanan said fishing was no longer a problem because many fishers had moved to tourism because of the proximity of dive spots.

A biodiversity expedition was mounted in the area five months to identify marine species.

Terrence Gosliner, the dean of Science and Research Collection at the California Academy of Sciences, said 50 foreign and Filipino scientists found deep sea and shallow-water diving to find marine species and had gone up to the mountains to study forest organisms.

Gosliner said that in the past three weeks, the group had discovered 100 new marine species, including soft corals, sea and barnacles, that were still to be named.

He said he had been to the Philippines four times and every time he came, he found new species.

SCIENTISTS study the Verde Island Passage, a key marine biodiversity area, amid reports that beach resorts are polluting its waters.

Palace calls for boycott of black coral jewelry

From page A1

here. Destroying coral reefs is stealing the homes of marine life organisms," she said.

President Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said the government needed to "explore every" to stop the trading of black corals.

The public, Lacierda said in a statement, needs to be educated "to do its part not to make plastic pay off pendents."

"The recipients, among others, the luxury hotels and beach dress who sell jewelry made from black coral. We call on consumers the world over to make a similar commitment to saving the biodiversity of our seas, by refusing to buy black coral products," he said.

Lacierda also asked Filipinos abroad "to look into" black corals sold overseas that may include those smuggled from the Philippines and passed off as exports from elsewhere.

Customs authorities have announced the seizures of shipments of black coral worth P13 million in Cebu province last week and over P20 million worth of endangered turtles and other species in Zamboanga City.

Experts believed that about 7,000 hectares of reef coverplaces—twice the size of Manila—had been destroyed when poachers harvested over 25,000 black coral pieces off Calatagan province.

Senate inquiry

Legarda yesterday filed a resolution directing the Senate committees of climate change and environment and natural resources to conduct an inquiry into the poaching and coincidence remedial measures.

"This is indeed very alarming considering that this kind of commercial exploitation has been banned for 15 years," she said. "A damage of this magnitude could have been prevented with the strict implementation of the law."

Wendee Lim, chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, said the Philippine was at the center of an extensive coral network of smugglers and poachers exploiting marine resources in Southeast Asia.

At the same time, however, Lim acknowledged the government did not have the resources to deal with the problem.

"It appears that it is a wide network. The demand is not just in the Philippines but abroad, too. There is a network of smugglers and poachers that has to be identified," she said.

Marine mammals

The contraband, estimated to be worth $10 million annually, goes to the United States, Taiwan and China, she told the Inquirer yesterday.

Lim said her bureau also had received reports that marine mammals, such as whales, dugongs and sharks, were being poached and smuggled.

The meat of sharks is used for soup, while the bones of the cubs or animals are dried and powdered for traditional purposes.

Lim lamented that her bureau did not have a monitoring capacity and had to depend on the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

"We don't have people to do it," she said. "Our coastal and marine office is manned by only two persons."

The bureau's budget is only P400 million a year, she said.

No authority

In Livena City, Sen Pimentel, incoming SEMB director, said his agency lacked the authority to enforce environmental laws.

Perez, an environmental lawyer and activist, said in a phone interview that he would focus on advocating the citizenry.

"Most of our people are not yet aware of the importance of our corals. We have to seriously address that problem," he said.

Fernando Hicap, chair of the infant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, called for increased penalties to enforce laws against the gathering and selling of corals.

"The punishment for violators is very light, with imprisonment of six months to two years and a fine of P5,000 to P50,000," he said. "It was never meant to protect the country's resources from big-time poachers." With reports from Christine F. Figueroa, Jocelyn R. Uy, Krizchee C. Abuso and Joyce T. Muller Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

'Chedeng' spares PH, veers toward Japan

From page A1

administration (Pagasa) lowered storm warnings.

"By the end of the day, they will have all left for home," said Bernardo Alejandro, the regional civil defense chief.

Robert Sarmiento, Pagasa chief forecaster, said a high pressure ridge dissipated, allowing the typhoon to veer away from the country and head toward Japan.

By 4 p.m. yesterday, Chedeng was some 560 kilometers east of Casiguran, Aurora province, or 260 km east of space, Cagayan province. The typhoon packed more wallop as it moved northwest at 19 kph with peak winds of 175 kph gusting up to 210 kph.

Pagasa said, however, that rains spawned by the typhoon—the second of the season—and the activation of the southwest monsoon were likely to continue until Saturday.

At least 30 flights to and from Samar province and the Bicol region were canceled yesterday.

A total of 3,719 passengers returned stranded for a second day in various ports in Bicol, the Coast Guard reported.

By Thursday noon, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda ordered evacuees to go home, except those living in low-lying areas.

At least 80,000 families had been told to evacuate as a precautionary measure, but the provincial said about 16,021 families would remain evacuees

TYPHOON COMING A farmer in Bagon town in Sabela municipality dusts clouds forming as Typhoon "Chedeng" approaches.

among returnees in the towns of Tabaco, Malilipot, Daraga, Guinobatan and Jovellar.

Salceda also warned against mass travel because of big waves and storm surges.

The departure of Chedeng was welcomed in Baguio, Isabela, although Gov. Faustino Dy III directed tourist workers and road repair crews to stay at their posts.

Villagers who reside near riverbanks also were told to remain in evacuation centers.

The town received preparations for its annual Mamanggi festival and motor racing competitions as the weather improved.

In Baguio City, Councilor Edilenda mandated tourist traffic as strategic stations of the mountain region, the Office of Civil Defense said. With reports from Ji Ko, Jazmine U. Ilanan and Tina G. Santos in Manila; Villamor Visaya Jr. and Elmer Kristian Sinajon, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Mar Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon

P-Noy wary of surprises

From page A1

people. He said the chief of the Pagasa weather bureau for not issuing a timely warning.

Yesterday, before leaving for Bangkok on a state visit, the President made it clear to the Cabinet that he no longer wanted surprises from typhoons. Or, he would dismiss officials as a surprise of his own when he comes back home.

"I expect that I won't be surprised with bad news while in Thailand, or when you'll be the one surprised when I get back," he told Cabinet officials before boarding a Philippine Airlines flight to Bangkok.

In many of his previous public appearances, Mr. Aquino would break into a smile when making a speech. Yesterday, when he spoke about his allergy to aspirin, he gave no hint of a smile, suggesting he meant business.

Mr. Aquino left about the same time that Typhoon "Chedeng" was reaching toward the northeastern coast of the Philippines with maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers per hour.

Later on Thursday, Pagasa said Chedeng had moved slightly away from its predicted path.

Preparing for Chedeng

The President's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, would not hazard a comment on what Mr. Aquino meant with his remarks.

"I don't know the context of that," Lacierda told reporters, saying he didn't quite catch that part of the President's departure speech.

Among the Cabinet officials who saw Mr. Aquino off were Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, who supervises the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, who is in charge of relief operations.

Hourly forecast

Mr. Aquino is scheduled to return to Manila today. On June 1, he will leave for another state visit, this time to Brunei.

"We have an on-the-hour by the hour forecast on it appears that the storm swerved a little so it's good for us because the areas that were to be hit would no longer be affected. We are hoping that the rain would not become as strong," Lacierda said.

"It's better for us that the storm swerved a little. Hopefully, we'd no longer be hit," he added.

Bunyang battered Metro Manila on July 13 last year while Mr. Aquino was hosting a getting-to-know-you dinner at Malacañang for members of the media covering him.

The day after the dinner, he took Pagasa officials to task for their failure to notify the public that Bunyang had changed course and would strike the metropolis. Pagasa previously said Bunyang would hit Aurora province.

Three weeks later, Mr. Aquino tackled Pinoy ills in Pagasa administration

Andal Sr. 'roams'

From page A1

ator" video proving that Ampatuan Sr., the patriarch of the powerful clan and a former governor of Maguindanao, was enjoying special treatment from jail officials.

Facility inmates are high in the jail warden's office when Maguindanao, prosecutors, and other kin of the massacre victims insisted on an on-the-spot inspection of the temporary cell used by the detained Ampatuan Sr. and Mayor Datukan Andal Ampatuan Jr.

"You do not want us to inspect the jail cells? Then I'll erase our faith in the detained Mangudadatu said.

Mangudadatu said that Ampatuan Sr., still in the basketball court, with two men whom Mangudadatu identified as inmate serving as the patriarch's masseuse and cook, and "others" are also allowed to go out of their cells."

Other photos show vehicles purportedly owned by the Ampatuans parked outside the prison compound.

"Their vehicles are also allowed inside the prison compound. It's like they're living," Mangudadatu said. "What are they doing there when the guards are supposed to be strict about visiting hours?"

Inmates' relatives and lawyers are allowed to visit from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays to Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. No visits are allowed on Mondays.

Hotel lighting

Private prosecutor Harry Roque claimed that two lawyers had seen Ampatuan Sr. at a five-star hotel in Pasay City, and that he had requested this to become Senator Juan Ponce Enrile.

"If they're not hiding anything, why don't they allow an inspection?" Roque said.

Mangudadatu said Enrile should confirm a Feb. 2011 interrogation of the purported perks being afforded the Ampatuans by BJMP officials assigned to the prison camp.

"This is being done here," he said. "Afghanistan, especially Osama bin Laden reportedly would not have allowed this."

But the warden, Jr Chief Insp. Chemiel Saldepeñas, denied that Ampatuan Sr. was being given special treatment.

Valdepeñas said he assumed his position only on April 7 and did not recall any instance of Ampatuan Sr. being brought to the basketball court.

But he insisted now that inmates were given time to exercise outside their cells under the prisoners' welfare program.

Valdepeñas said he had not seen Mangudadatu's pictures but that he was ready to be investigated.

He said defense lawyers had access to the inmates 24 hours a day and insisted that Ampatuan Sr. was never allowed to leave for a hotel during his watch.

"If that had happened, he wouldn't have returned," the warden said.

Judge's permission

Defense lawyer George Sarmiento said that if the prosecution had evidence that Ampatuan Sr. was being given special treatments, they should present it in court.

He added that the prosecution should get the proper authorization from the RTC-BJMP if it wanted to inspect the suspects' cells.

But Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes said on Wednesday that the prosecution could inspect the cells and only need to coordinate with the jail.

"Yes, as long as proper coordination is made," Reyes said.

Mangudadatu, the prosecution, and the kin of the other massacre victims prepared a one-hour request late on Wednesday.

They intended to conduct an inspection at around noon yesterday and come to the warden's office to get his approval.

Valdepeñas remained in his room and did not meet with them.

The group waited for 20 minutes and a source sufficed to inspect the warden's decision. Only one lawyer from the prosecution and one from the defense could conduct the inspection.

"By now, they would have already been able to remove the invisible air-conditioner and the (Internet) router upstairs," Mangudadatu said.

Angry encounter

Roque initially suggested that the group agree that only one lawyer from the prosecution go up to inspect the cells. But another private prosecutor, Gemma Dipatindo, who lost her father and sister in the massacre, insisted that there should be more transparency.

A defense lawyer, Attel Warrakin, arrived and said that he would not allow an inspection. Warrakin was often seen talking beside and talking with the principal suspect, Andal Ampatuan Jr., when the latter used to attend De La Salle lectures.

Mangudadatu and his bodyguards identified the man as "Warrakin" but later said he was Philip Jing.

Serrano and the defense team had no lawyer named Philip Jing but there was an Atty. Edmund Caballero Jing.

A check with the Supreme Court attendance sheet, which all trial attendees have to sign, showed no Philip Ang. But Mangudadatu's name was there.

The statements Caballero' Elt Incapena Jing's attorney has named Dal Mandoza freely moved around the warden's office. The lawyer was about to casually open the door to Valdepeñas' room when they called him out.

"Sabay, pare, you're just going to enjoy while we're busy getting here," said Mangudadatu's brother, Mayor Khadaffy Mangudadatu of Buluan, Maguindanao.

Warrakin: no. Ayon lahat. Look at us. We're the victims. You should be helping us," he said.

Governor Mangudadatu called me to Mandoza. "When did you bring a gun inside, Attorney?"

The lawyers entered Mandoza, saying he had become "a part" of Ampatuan Sr. and "a guard" in the prison compound.

"Let's not mock each other. Let's be civil," Mandoza said before leaving.

The governor joined him on the shoulder as he was going out, but a relative of one of the victims gave him a punch.

No, thanks

Mangudadatu and lawyer Dipatindo returned late yesterday afternoon to the prison compound after 10,000 chief Romualdo Umal arrived to lead an inspection.

Dipatindo said the jail officials had agreed to allow both private and public prosecutors to join the inspection, but the prosecution wanted a down, saying that by then, "the Ampatuans would have been ready to be inspected."

In yesterday's hearing, Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu showed Ampatuan Jr. outside his detention cell inside the jail compound at Camp Bagong Diwa. RICHARD A. REYES

In yesterday's hearing, Maguindanao Governor Esmael Mangudadatu showed Andal Ampatuan Jr. outside his detention cell inside the jail compound at Camp Bagong Diwa.

In yesterday's hearing, Maguindanao Governor Esmael Mangudadatu showed Andal Ampatuan Jr. outside his detention cell inside the jail compound at Camp Bagong Diwa. RICHARD A. REYES

NEWS

Maynilad offers water connection to Terminal 1

By Tina G. Santos and Nas Olchondra

THE MAYNILAD Water Services (Maynilad) water concessionaire has urged the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), which operates the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia), to connect the facility to its water distribution line for the sake of safety and the country's image.

Maynilad was particularly concerned about the almost three-decades-old Nia 1, which sources its water from deep wells.

Passengers and employees have complained about the irregular water supply in the Terminal 1's restrooms which were reportedly caused by leaking pipes, about six to eight feet underneath the main arrival area.

Maynilad said it would soon be submitting a proposal to the Miaa.

Bad for image

Ricky Vargas, Maynilad's president and chief executive officer, said in a statement he was "hopeful" that the connection can be effected immediately in the interest of the country's image and public safety.

"The state of our airports is a reflection on how progressive we are as a country. No amount of marketing and advertising can improve our image if we cannot even provide tourists basic amenities such as running water and clean restrooms," he said.

Vargas also pointed to the risks of using deep-well water.

"Water from most deep wells is not well treated or regularly monitored, unlike ours. The water we supply passes through a stringent treatment process and the Department of Health regularly checks the potability of our supply," he said.

Maynilad and Miaa officials recently met to discuss how the water concessionaire can help with the water supply problem at the terminal.

The meeting was set up after Maynilad state Manny Pangilinan learned about the airport's water problems when he arrived last Saturday from Hong Kong. The tycoon noticed the "dilapidated" at the terminal and was apparently told of the airport's waterless restrooms.

After learning that the airport sourced its water from deep wells, Pangilinan offered the assistance of the concessionaire.

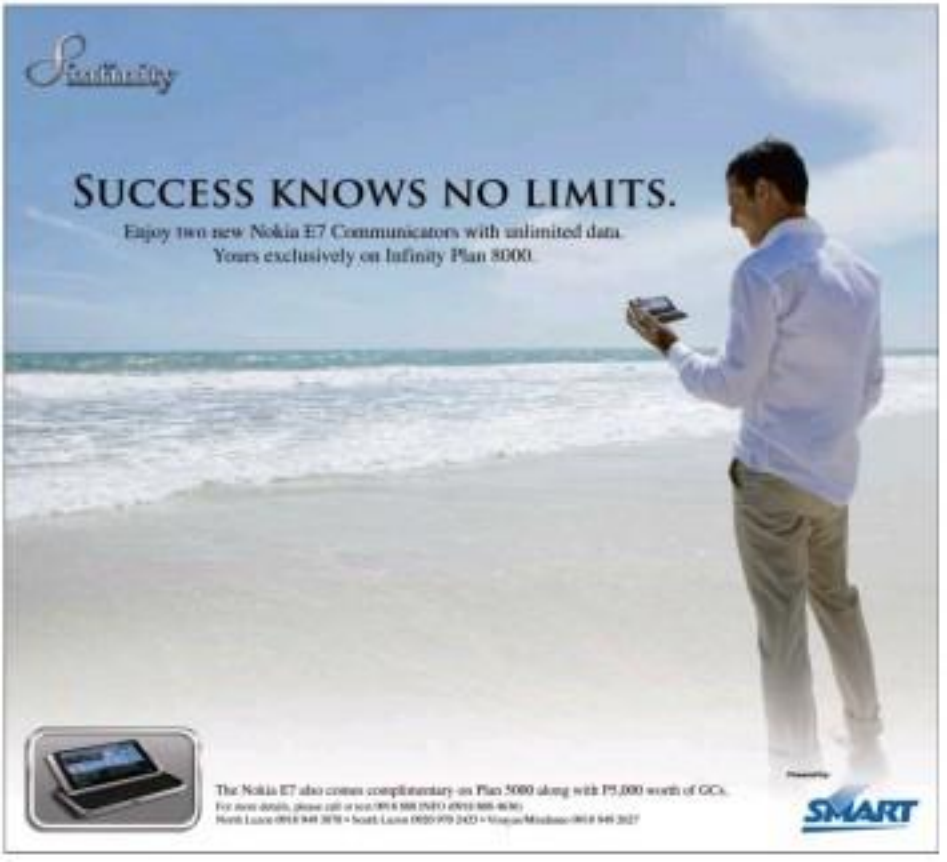
Maynilad is the authorized water service provider for Nia 2 and Pia Mapua whose the country's main airports are located. The company is owned and managed by Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

At the meeting, Maynilad also offered its technical expertise and leak detection equipment to accurately identify the leaky pipes under the airport.

The Miaa management earlier assured the traveling public that it is doing everything to address the problem and that the terminal's old facilities are now being refurbished.

Terminal 1 has been a frequent target of criticism from travelers, owing to congestion, its rundown and filthy state and toilets that don't work.

It was actually voted one of the world's 10 worst airports and the worst in Asia for 2010 by an interactive website.



Aplus METRO

Mayor Lim vows to phase out 'pirates' in Manila by June

By Jaymee T. Gamil

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim is optimistic "pirates" will be phased out in Manila by June.

Following a recent United States Trade Representative (USTR) report citing the Quiapo district as a notorious market for pirated goods, Lim has embarked on an ambitious program to stop local counterfeiters in "one year's time."

Recently, Lim invited local Muslim "ulamas" or religious and scholarly leaders to a dialogue at city hall, after receiving information that most of the vendors of pirated goods in Quiapo were Muslims.

Also present at the dialogue was Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines director general Ricardo Blancaflor, who expressed hopes of implementing in Quiapo the same intellectual property rights protection program pursued by IPOPHL in another notorious market for piracy in Metro Manila, the Greenhills Shopping Center.

"Manila is gaining a bad image as a center of piracy, but actually manufacturers, who we have yet to identify, are just dropping their products here. We will adopt this concerted action to stop the proliferation of pirated items," Lim said.

"We are asking our vendors to stop selling counterfeit wares, because if there are no vendors, there will be no industry," he added.

Quiapo Media Board chief Hernan Ricketts, who also attended the dialogue, expressed hopes piracy could be wiped out.

Another bus hit Estella's cab first, say 2 witnesses

By Julie M. Aurelio

IT WAS a Nova Auto Transport bus which first sideswiped the taxi carrying veteran journalist and University of the Philippines professor Chit Estella-Simbulan on the night she died in a fatal car crash, according to two eyewitnesses and bus employees.

A fellow driver and employee of bus driver Daniel Espinosa of Universal Holding Bus made this assertion in a sworn statement to support the claim that the tragedy was an unfortunate accident.

"These two eyewitnesses accounts will show that my client is not to fault, because the two witnesses saw how Sir (Espinosa) tried to avoid hitting the taxi but it was too late," said their lawyer Salvador Panelo.

Panelo is Espinosa's lawyer in the reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and damage to property and abandonment of one's victim case in the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

The two eyewitnesses—LTO bus driver Horacio Penaga and conductor Jonathan Calleja—went with the lawyer to the prosecutor's office to swear to the truth of their statements.

The two accounts will form part of Espinosa's counter-affidavit which will be submitted on May 31 in a preliminary investigation before assistant city prosecutor Ronald Tarrija.

Penaga was the driver of a 2011 Isuzu ELF NKR 2657 which was right behind Espinosa's own 2011 Isuzu ELF NKR 3432 at the time of the fatal car crash on the night of May 15.

Estella Cayetano Estella-Simbulan is real life's way when Espinosa's bus crashed into the rear of the taxi she was then riding along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

In his account, Penaga recalled how he saw a Nova bus "[drive] the first sideswipe Estella's cab and how Espinosa's bus tried to avoid hitting the taxi.

"A few moments later, I saw Espinosa's bus brake and veer to the right to avoid the taxi in front of him but the bus still hit the taxi's rear," the statement said in Filipino.

Simbulan came from her house in the Tandang Sora area and was on her way to a high school reunion at the UP Ayala Land Technohub.

Espinosa's bus hit the points and a small cove in front of the commercial complex.

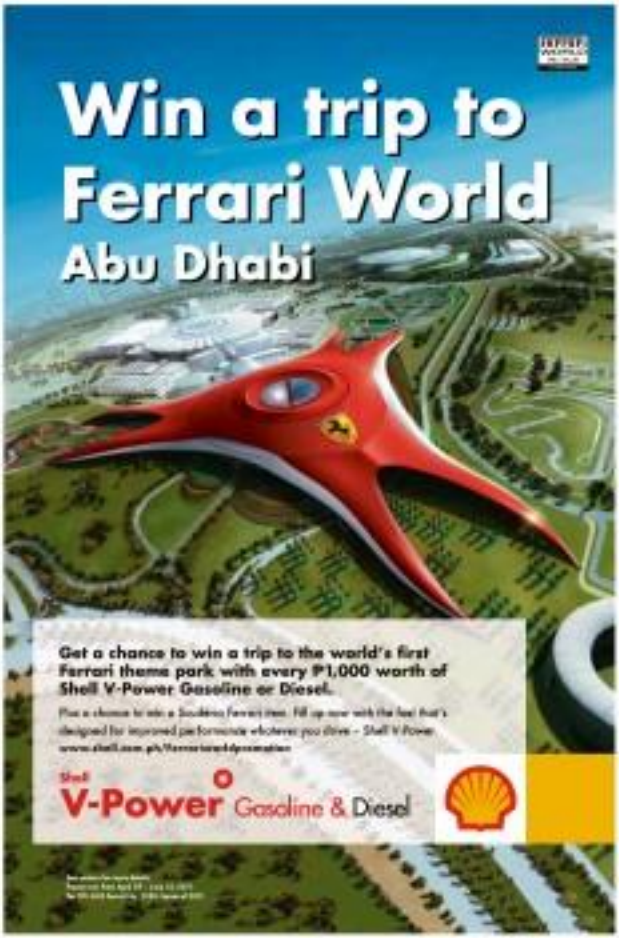
Both Penaga and Calleja said they picked up the passengers from Espinosa's bus and sent on their way.

Panelo is seeking a subpoena for the owner of Nova Auto Transport for the clear location of the runaway Nova bus which first sideswiped the taxi.

Panelo said he would ask Tarrija, the investigating prosecutor, to issue a subpoena duces tecum and ad testificandum for owner Dr. Melissa Lim to present the bus' Nova May 15 logbook.

The logbook, the lawyer said, will identify the first Nova bus allegedly involved in the accident.

Earlier, Panelo said Espinosa emailed seeing two Nova buses racing from behind his bus two months before site of the Nova sideswiped Estella's taxi.



Cops clueless on couple's deaths in hotel room

By Jeannette I. Andrade

POLICE remained stumped yesterday over the mysterious shooting of a 25-year-old man and his license girlfriend inside a hotel room in Manila.

Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section head Insp. Armando Macaraeg told the Inquirer that although they are inclined to rule out a third party involvement in the deaths of Emmanuel Andrew Jay Agudo, of Sagpaduan, Laguna, and 23-year-old Jessica Rae Sino Jang, they have not found any explanation for the couple's bullet wounds on the bodies.

Macaraeg pointed out that they have also not determined why the door of the hotel room was locked from the inside and where the murder could have entered if a third party had been involved.

He revealed that based on statements from the families, the married basics couple did not receive any death threats nor involved in drug activities.

The bodies were discovered by hotel personnel at around 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, more than two hours after the couple were supposed to check out of the room after a 24-hour stay.

Police said that based on an initial investigation, Agudo and Jang were found naked on the bed, both dead from bullet wounds in the head and body.

Police investigators recovered a .25 caliber automatic pistol beside Agudo's body and live fired cartridge cases on the floor. Macaraeg pointed out that the gun belonged to Agudo based on firearm documents produced by the belongings.

"The room was not in disarray and the couple's belongings were intact," Macaraeg said, adding that the absence of a firearm in both the room other than the three rounds had been fished from the inside, discounted the possibility of a third party involvement.

But Macaraeg stressed that the number of bullet wounds in each of the bodies suggested foul play.

With Miemilano Chuang

MetroBriefs

Accountant shot over payroll cash

AN OFFICE accountant was shot in the chest when he refused to yield the payroll money he was carrying to armed robbers a few meters away from their office in Quezon City on Wednesday afternoon, police reported Thursday. The victim, Christopher de Castro, 36, accounting officer of Excellence Security and Investigation, and a companion were about to board a motorcycle outside their office when two men on board a motorcycle suddenly appeared and at gunpoint declared a holdup. But instead of yielding the bag, police said De Castro refused and fought off the robbers. The other robber then fired at the victim and, thereafter, took the payroll money amounting to P200,000 P1 and drove off. *Alexis C. Corniyal*

Trader buying lotto ticket robbed, shot

TWO ARMED men robbed and shot an Indian trader buying a lotto ticket in Mandaluyong City on Thursday afternoon, police said. The victim, Deep Singh, 38, was on his motorcycle waiting for his companions to buy him a ticket at a lotto outlet on Nueve de Febrero Street in Barangay Addition Hills at around 1:30 p.m., when two men armed with pistols approached him and announced a holdup. When Singh refused to hand them his cash and valuables, the robbers shot him in the abdomen and sped off using his motorcycle. Talking with his nose up, Singh was taken to Mandaluyong Medical Center for treatment. Police said the victim was now out of danger after undergoing surgery at the hospital. *Nitz Calleja*

Caloocan City cited for drive vs measles

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has named the city government of Caloocan as the National Capital Region's top performer in the ongoing vaccination drive against measles. Mayor Enrico Echiverri announced Thursday. He also reported that 250,400 children in the city were vaccinated between April 4 and May 14 under the City-led Lgbo Tigbo campaign. He said the campaign has since been extended to May 28 to reach the 314,000 children target set by the local government. *Nitz Calleja*

Skills tests among SWAT units set

THE SPECIAL Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) units of all city and municipal police districts are set to test their skills in a week-wide competition at the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) this weekend. "The friendly match aims and just to enhance the tactical performances and proficiency of the SWAT units of the NCRPO, but also to establish camaraderie and unity amongst forces," said NCRPO director Chief Supt. Allan Purisima. The competition will be held at Camp Magalang Diwa, Malacañan Taguig City. *Penelope Estoce*

Bus shot up at Edsa; woman passenger hurt

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A SEVEN OLD woman was hurt when two men on board a red sedan fired at the bus she was riding while traveling along Edsa near corner NIA Road early morning Thursday, police said.

Senior Supt. Celsomanno Silvio identified the victim as Analiza Leyco of Mandaluyo City.

Mendoza said the drive-by shooting took place at around 5:20AM the morning and hit the victim on her right arm.

Investigators said the suspects would have fled as the driver of Alabang Metrobank bus with plate number TYE 423.

"It could be a case of road rage, the bus could have hit the sedan," investigators said.

The victim, Mendoza said, was brought to Manila Central University hospital, where she was declared out of danger and released afterwards.

The passengers and the suspects also were named the Mandaluyo area.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

May 29 to 30, 2011

341 Araw ng Makati

ROAD CLOSURES:

FROM 12:00 NOON TO FINISH (MAY 29, TO 30, 2011)

1. **Ayala Avenue- from Makati Avenue up to Herrera Street. (Both Lanes)**
2. **Paseo de Roxas- from Sedeno Street to Dela Rosa Street.(Both Lanes)**

FROM 12:00 NOON TO 4:00 PM (MAY 30, 2011)

1. **Malugay Street – From Pasong Tamo To Ayala Avenue**
   -From Ayala Avenue to Gil Puyat Avenue (Both Lanes)
2. **Ayala Avenue – From Gil Puyat to Metropolitan Street.**
   -From Kamagong to Gil Puyat.
3. **Rufino Street – From Valero Street to Dela Rosa Street**

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1. **All passenger Buses (PUB) from EDSA, right to Sen. Gil Puyat toward destination.**
2. **All passenger Buses (PUB) coming from SLEX, Buendia, Pasay City take Gil Puyat Avenue left EDSA towards destination.**

PUJ/LIGHT VEHICLES:

1. **From J.P. Rizal, right turn Makati Avenue, right turn Paseo De Roxas, right turn Villar Street, Left turn E.P. Leviste, Left turn V.A. Rufino right turn Ayala Avenue towards destination.**
2. **From Washington St. right turn Gil Puyat, right turn Ayala Avenue right turn Salcedo, left turn Benavidez toward Esperanza, right turn Makati Avenue, right turn Arnaiz Ave. right turn Paseo De Roxas, left turn Dela Rosa, right turn Salcedo left turn Ayala Avenue towards destination.**

EXPECT HEAVY TRAFFIC, TAKE ALTERNATE ROUTE AND AVOID THE ACTIVITY AREA.

www.makati.gov.ph

Ivler's lawyers ask QC judge to inhibit self

By Julie M. Aurelio

CLAIMING bias on the part of the court, lawyers of road rage suspect Jason Ivler have asked a Quezon City judge to inhibit himself from the murder case for the death of a Police official's son in 2009.

In a seven-page motion, the defense sought the inhibition of Judge Reuben Reyes of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 215.

The motion, signed by lawyers Enrique de la Cruz Jr., Edmundson Ong and Priscilla Marie Abante, was dated May 19, 2011, but received only Thursday by court staff.

The would make Reyes the second judge to be asked to inhibit himself from the murder trial, the first being Judge Alexander Unite of RTC Branch 76.

Ivler is facing murder charges for allegedly shooting Renato Victor Eberle Jr., son of a former Palace official, on Nov. 18, 2009, during a traffic altercation along Santolan Road in Quezon City.

He was arrested in a shoot-out at his mother's house in Etheridge Subdivision in Quezon City during which he sustained gunshot wounds in his stomach after fighting to get with hostage.

Overflow of Marikina river due to siltation, says land developer

By Nitz Calleja

DENYING itself from the accusations of river overcrowdment, property developer Ortigas & Co. has blamed erosion and siltation for the overflow of the Marikina River during times of torrential rain.

The rift along the downstream of the Marcos-Pasig Flooding, if surveyed from the river, could fill 1,350 dump trucks of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said Sherwoodo Galang, vice president of DECS, an engineering consultancy firm hired by the Ortigas & Co. Limited Partnership for its Canada Verde project.

Canada Verde is a 13-hectare residential development project in Barangay Bayan, Quezon City, which is surrounded by Marikina River.

Galang said his computations was based on a recent study showing that the downstream of the Marikina River presently has 24, 980 cubic meters of silt.

This amount of silt, he said, was the result of an erosion and flash flood upstream when Tropical Storm "Ondoy" hit the city in 2009.

"Since then, it has not been dredged and thus, greatly diminished the carrying capacity of the river and caused its unusual flow," Galang said in an interview.

Mandaluyo Vice Mayor Jose Antonio Cadiz earlier claimed that the river, which only has a capacity to a span of 10 hours of nonstop rain and blamed this on the alleged encroachments on the river.

City officials last week opened an MMDA official accusing the Ortigas Works of constricting the width of the river from 150 to 50 meters from 1993 to present.

Ortigas & Co. repeatedly denied these claims, saying it has not built on anything beyond the boundaries of its property nor has its reduced its property in any way.

Your Guide to the Philippines at SM City North Edsa

The Philippine Landing Site in Palo, Leyte is an island in commemoration of Ferdinand's famous parting words "I shall return".

Malipano can now enjoy a tour of the Philippines much sooner in the most fun-filled manner as SM City North EDSA celebrates some of the country's top tourist destinations in Your Guide to the Philippines.

From April 30 to June 12, the mall's Bonanza will showcase 3 dimensional replicas of the country's most exciting tourist destinations. The various, which aims to promote tourism and environmental preservation, features breathtakingly natural wonders like the Subterranean River National Park and the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, UNESCO World Heritage sites like Vigan, the Mayon Church in Albay, and the Saint Augustine Church in Ilocos, Historical sites like the palace of Mac Arthur's Leyte Landing and of course, the Rizal Shrine Jamesos which has been called the Eighth Wonder of the World.

Your Guide to the Philippines was officially launched at the Bonanza. It is called Kingdom Ruled by Lakan Dalisay Cruz – Director, City Mayor Herbert Bautista, Vice-Mayor Joy Belmonte, Assistant Secretary of Tourism Undersecretary Ma. Victoria Jaworski Tuason, Philippine Consulate Director Atty. Rodolfo Agoncillo, Heritage Institute Executive Director Annabelle Pantoja, Ma. Lourdes Heritage Institute President

Pigeon Kingdom's Henry Fortunato, Lorna Quibilan and George Villanueva welcomed Lakan Dalisay Cruz and Mayor Herbert Bautista to the Philippine Heritage Festival as Ms. Princesa Ma. Victoria Rodero and SCMC President Rosie Garcia.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is one of the 7 Wonders of Nature made visible by Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Tourism Officer Ma. Victoria Rodero and SCMC President Rosie Garcia.

James Hahn and Regina Orozco Ancog, joined the event, as did UNESCO Ms. Mary Pang and the World Monuments Fund's Wendy Luhabe.

Numerous activities from the cities where the cities are located. Famous Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista, Jr. and Tagaytay Councilor Jose Concepcion were delighted to see Malipano crowd around the attractions.

Your Guide to the Philippines is one of the many exciting events at SM City North EDSA.

Filipino Filipinas Kingdom Festival Director Ms. Madonna Bolton, Mayong Pilipino Executive Director Atty. Apolonio Arevalo, UNESCO Project Asst. for Culture Ms. Mary Pang, and Dept. of Tourism Asst. Ms. Victoria Jaworski with SCMC President Ms. Rosie Garcia, VP for Operations for Premiere Malls Ms. Noreen Vito Regional Operations Manager Ms. Bonna Bautista, and SM VP for Marketing Ms. Hiyasmin Neri during a short photo opportunity at the start of the ceremony.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte at the ceremony showcasing during the launch of Your Guide to the Philippines campaign at SM City North Edsa.

Puerto Princesa City Tourism Director Ms. Rebecca Lucio, Pasay Tourism Consultant Angelique Jose Concepcion, Batangas Bayan Vice Mayor Ferdinand Rodriguez, Angeles Tourism and Heritage Officer Ms. Rosario Parado, and Mr. Conrado Baylosis, representative of Tourism Manila.

The WORLD
Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

'OBAMA NOT A KING'

US solons call Libya effort violation of law

WASHINGTON—Several lawmakers from both parties on Wednesday accused President Barack Obama of violating the War Powers Resolution by continuing US participation in Nato's air war in Libya without congressional authorization. However, they struggled with the question of what Congress can or should do about it.

At a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, several members ridiculed Obama for failing to withdraw US military forces from Libya after the expiration of a 60-day deadline for hostilities that have not been approved by Congress. The Libyan operation reached that deadline, which was imposed by the Vietnam-era resolution, last Friday.

"The president is not a king, said he shouldn't act like a king," said Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind. Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., said the administration was treating lawmakers as "unelected" by failing to acknowledge that the deadline had passed or to explain itself.

"It's time for Congress to step forward," said Sherman. "It's time to stop shredding the US Constitution in a piecemeal effort to bring democracy and constitutional rule of law to Libya."

Still, he added that he thinks Congress probably should approve continuing the Libyan operation.

The administration has said that it believes it is acting consistently with the resolution, although it has not explained why it thinks so.

Congress passed the War Powers Resolution in 1973, overriding President Richard Nixon's veto, in an attempt to restore its standing role in deciding whether the country becomes involved in significant armed conflicts.

Since then, many presidents, citing their powers as commander-in-chief, have bypassed a section that says they need prior congressional authorization to deploy forces into hostilities, except if the country is under attack. But there is far less precedent of presidents' challenging another section that says they must terminate any still-unauthorized operations after 60 days. In 1999, the Justice Department concluded that the deadline was unconstitutional.

Among those who were critical of the administration's moves, there was no clear consensus on how to react. Rep. Chris Gibson, R-NY, proposed a major overhaul of the War Powers Resolution that would prohibit presidents from using funds to deploy the military into hostilities without prior permission from Congress, except in the case of an imminent attack on the United States or based on treaties or treaty obligations.

Rep. Justin Amash, R-Mich., proposed cutting off funds for the Libya operation unless lawmakers authorize it.

Several other lawmakers spoke favorably of a proposal co-authored this week by Senators John Kerry, D-Mass., and John McCain, R-Ariz., that would in effect end the debate by expressing legislative support for the Libyan operation.

Still, others voiced uncertainty about whether Obama was exceeding his legal powers. He is not the first that many presidents in recent generations have initiated hostilities without prior authorization. And that Congress had not stood up to them. New York Times News Service

EDWARDS

Ex-White House hopeful Edwards faces indictment

RALEIGH, North Carolina—The Justice Department plans to bring criminal charges against John Edwards after a two-year investigation into whether the former presidential candidate illegally used money from some of his political backers to cover up his extramarital affair, a person familiar with the case said on Wednesday.

An indictment would come weeks days after the 2004 Democratic vice presidential nominee reaches an agreement with prosecutors to plead guilty to a negotiated charge, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the case's sensitivity.

It was not immediately clear when charges would be filed or if Edwards would plead guilty.

Federal authorities have been investigating the former North Carolina senator's campaign finances, focusing heavily on money from wealthy supporters that allegedly went to keep mistress Rielle Hunter and her now-ex-boyfriend, lobbyist Andrew Young, quiet and to protect Edwards' White House campaign from becoming engulfed in scandal.

Prosecutors, in an investigation overseen by top Justice Department officials in Washington, have been looking at whether those funds should have been reported as campaign contributions since they arguably aided his presidential bid.

Edwards's attorney Gregory Craig said in a statement that prosecutors have never found that campaign funds were misused and said the government's theory in the case is without precedent and "wrong on the facts and wrong on the law."

"John Edwards has done wrong in his life—and he knows it better than anyone—but he did not break the law," said Craig, who is former White House counsel for President Barack Obama.

The statement did not say whether a deal still could be reached, asked whether a potential deal was off, Edwards' attorneys declined to elaborate beyond the statement.

Edwards' attorneys have long said they are confident the 57-year-old former politician did not violate campaign finance laws. AP

Civil war looms in Yemen as dozens killed in capital

SANAA—Dozens of Yemenis were killed in overnight gunbattles in the capital, a government official said on Thursday, as fighting seized at toppling President Ali Abdullah Saleh threatened to spark civil war.

The defense ministry said at least 20 people were killed in an explosion in an arms storage area of Sanaa, and that a Yemeni prosecutor had ordered the arrest of "rebellious" leaders of the tribal group led by the al-Ahmar family.

A government official said the headquarters of an opposition television station had been "destroyed," without giving details.

Residents across Sanaa, fearful by the hundreds, frantically fleeing possessions to the north of cars, hoping to escape the violence that has killed more than 60 people since Monday and threatened to spread into other areas of the capital Sanaa.

The most recent clashes have been concentrated in a part of southern Sanaa where fighters loyal to powerful tribal leader Sadiq al-Ahmar have been trying to take over government buildings including the Interior Ministry.

Witnesses said Reuters that Ahmar's summons was severely damaged, and explosions around midnight on Wednesday would be heard in the north part of the city.

"This seems to be favorite weapons than the machine-gun fire and the mortars of the past few days," one resident said.

The government official did not provide details on from which sides the dead and wounded came from, the overnight fighting. Both sides blamed the other for the violence, which the opposition said could spiral into a civil war.

The United States and Saudi Arabia, both targets of failed attacks by a wing of al-Qaida based in Yemen, have tried to defuse the crisis and avert any spread of unrest that could give the global militant network more room to operate. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Serbia arrests man believed to be Mladic

BELGRADE—Serbian police have arrested a man suspected to be the wanted war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic, an Interior Ministry official said on Thursday. "We have arrested persons believed to be Mladic. We are conducting the DNA tests," the official said on condition of anonymity. The man was arrested in Zarkovo on an anonymous tip, he said. Serbia must arrest Mladic, accused by the Hague war crimes tribunal for the fact that genocide, if it wants to join Europe's fold. Reuters

Obama: West leadership role still strong

LONDON—President Barack Obama stood in the nation's guardian of Westminster Hall and set out his vision for England and the world that the growing influence of countries like China, India and Brazil does not mean a diminished role for the Americas and the West's values abroad. "The threat for our leadership is real," Obama declared to members of Parliament, who for the first time gathered an American president the honor of addressing them in the 600-year-old hall of state and government ceremonial in British history have played out. "If we fail to meet that responsibility, who would take our place, and what kind of world would we pass on?" the president asked. Taking up arms from the allied soldiers who fought on the beaches of Normandy to the men who marched across the Afghanistan Baughan Libya, Obama argued that only the Western alliance has the strength and to stand to promote and defend democracy around the globe. AP

Giffords shooter ruled incompetent for trial

TUCSON, Ariz.—A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that Jared L. Loughner was not mentally competent to stand trial on charges that he opened fire at a constituent event for Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in January, killing six and injuring her and 12 others. The ruling by Judge Larry A. Burns of US District Court suspends the court proceedings against Loughner while he suspect, who reports said has schizophrenia, undergoes treatment at a federal psychiatric facility in Springfield, Mo. Loughner will return to court Sept. 21, when the judge will review again whether Loughner understands the 49 charges against him and can assist in his defense. If everyone possible, legal experts said, that Loughner will never be found competent and could remain in a psychiatric facility indefinitely. Yet prosecutors said they hoped that he would recover. New York Times News Service

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Samsung golf: Gonzales, Katigbak gain

GAME GONZALES of Samsung Point and MC Matienzo's Gerard Katigbak posted off a pair of match play champions to barge into the quarterfinal round of the 76 th Samsung National Tournament of Club Champions at the Eagle Ridge in Dmi. Tina, Cavite, and Wednesday. Gonzales topped Ms. 4 Bermuda Lane of Sta. Elena, 1-up to emerge a Lot 8 clash with top-seed Frank Jung-yeon 2-1 underdog, while Katigbak advanced after Topdong Kyehwan Chung-Lynn Pahlongan conceded on the 18th. Katigbak takes on No. 3 Richard Jonsard Rapp/Ellen Rwanda for a berth in the semifinals of the tournament sponsored by Samsung.

Editor Teodoro S. Matienzo
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Jason lands main-draw slot in Jakarta

JASON Pamintuan landed his first outright main draw in the ATP Futures 3 tennis tournament slated June 6 to 12 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Coach Manny Tamayo reported that, by virtue of his world ATP ranking (1,121), Pamintuan will not go through the qualifying rounds of the event which dangles a purse put at $10,000. The veteran ensamble his pro circuit campaign this weekend when he plays in the qualifying rounds of an $15k futures in Bogotano. "I believe he is better prepared now," said Tamayo. Pamintuan must again to reach only the second round in two of four recent tournaments in India. —Marc Anthony Reyes

Diaz batters 6 marks as PNG lifters frolick

By Jure Navarro

BACOLOD CITY—Hidilyn Diaz veritably stood way over her 8-foot 11 frame yesterday after shattering six records in the Philippine National Games here.

The 20-year-old lifter from Zamboanga City reset her own marks in the women's Open and junior 58 kilogram categories of the weightlifting competition that saw a total of 13 national records fall on the same day at the SM North Terminal.

Diaz, a 2008 Beijing Olympics veteran, registered a 95 kg in the snatch and 120 kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 215 kg topping the seven of 94, 121, 209 she posted in the same events during the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.

Her feat also eclipsed her old records in the junior ranks (88, 201, 5lbs lifted 111 kg in the clean and jerk in a tournament last year in Uzbekistan, and 88 in the snatch and 176 total in the 2009 National Open in Iloilo.

"This is a memorable spot and I was really prepared to break the record," said Diaz, who will aim for a spot in the 2011 Southeast Asian Games and the World Championships scheduled Nov. 11 to 20 in France.

Diaz will be straight to business for the 58th Southeast Asian Games on Nov. 12 to 20 right after the world championships.

"We sacrificed so much for this [spot] and I'm really going to school two years ago," the country's winner sophomore from Universidad de Zamboanga said.

Billiards produced a pair of shutters yesterday as reigning World 8-ball champion Dennis Orcollo fell to a walk-in putting a rare mark record in national competitions and Warren Kiamco lost to a virtual unknown.

Sid Tingson of La Carlota City pulled off a 9-5 upset of Orcollo, the 9-ball singles gold medalist in the Guangzhou Asiad, while Rodrigo Sorosoro stunned Kiamco, 9-7, to stave wounded Lt. 8-ball marksman Ronnie Alcano-Moll.

In his first national tournament, Tingson lagged behind, 2-4, before crashing Orcollo, 5-3. The 21-year-old neophyte then won the next four racks to seal Orcollo's doom in the winner's-break competition format and advance to the quarterfinals.

"I was frightened to face him [Orcollo] because of his stature," said Tingson, a BS Marine Transportation senior in this city's John B. Lanuza College Foundation.

In tennis, Jessie Aking Lacsina grabbed his fifth gold in the 200-meter individual medley (2:11.76). Jessing Glan Torres (2:19.16) and Mark Joseph Pilapil (2:38.79) while Jessiter Mikaele packed his fourth in the 100m breaststroke (1:03.12) seconds.

Nine-time SEA Games champion John Baylon also set a record of sorts, easily pocketing the gold in the judo -81 kg senior event over Jaysen Israelen to clinch another slot to the SEA Games.

Other winners in judo were Gilbert Ramirez Gerali (73 kg), Angelo Gamila (-90 kg), Mohammad El Helen (-100 kg), Marlene Simon Jan (-100 kg), Annie Ramirez Sweitzer's (-57 kg), Esmie Lozares Jesamen's (-63 kg), Jenlea Israel (-70 kg), Adrienne Bermudez (-78 kg) and Princess Rosos (78 kg).

Second-placed members Maybelyn Pablo, Patricia Llanes and Lea Beth Lima also nipped weightlifting records in their events.

Pablo's 70 kg in the snatch of the women's Open 77.5 kg broke Irene Gamila 72.5 during the mid-air

CEBUMAN Paeo (center) leaps into the sunset wind slightly ahead of Harold Magbigat and Jon Magbigat in windsurfing's elimination round in the Philippine National Games. Paeo eventually won the gold. JOEY CASTILLO

Judgement Day' as Airforce Rider, Global Smartmatic clash

Standings	W	L	Pct	GB	Home	Away	Streak
Air Force Aviators	11	4	.733	-	6-1	5-3	W1
Cignal Hawkeyes	11	4	.733	-	6-2	5-2	W1
Army Fritz & Wounded - SSM	11	4	.733	-	6-2	5-2	W1
Global Smartmatic	10	5	.667	1	5-3	5-2	W1
Laguna Heroes Sparks	11	4	.733	-	6-2	5-2	W1
Arellano Chiefs	11	4	.733	-	6-2	5-2	W1
Cignal Hawkeyes	10	5	.667	1	5-3	5-2	W1
Arellano Rider	10	5	.667	1	5-3	5-2	W1
Army Fritz & Wounded - SSM	10	5	.667	1	5-3	5-2	W1
Global Smartmatic	10	5	.667	1	5-3	5-2	W1
Army FC	0	15	.000	11	0-8	0-7	L15

The race for the United Football League title tightens further as one final game is remaining. Champion Air Force Aviators, Global Smartmatic Sunday at their University of Makati pitch.

Kick off is at 4 p.m. with the UFL leagues' present sit status. The two opponents also played for the UFL LBC Cup with Global winning an unsatisfying 2-1 last January.

Air Force and La Salayan landing 26 points and plus 24 goal difference, is looking to earn. Lasha a sensational ride to a second straight title. Global, on the other hand, will be seeking to overcome its vulnerable road record (5-3-2) and deliver their in top flight champions and attacks to Cup triumph earlier in the year.

Global set the stage for the final day drama as it dominated Army FC, 4-0, Wednesday night at the Lallana pitch, behind an all-goal from Lee Eli Habitan.

The result moved the Global round up to 22 points in 11 matches with a plus 22 goal difference.

The Airmen also nearly drew on Sunday, but a 1-0 win for Global will also be enough for them to overcome this.

Two equally interesting matches are also scheduled Sunday with Laya Cignal facing Army Fritz and Magdal IBM at 1 p.m. after Cignal Richelle Dawn Freighthaven Cavite the Arellano Sparks at noon.

Attendance in Sunday matches has steadily risen this year and another huge crowd is expected when the leagues top two teams collide.

Despite its unbeaten record, Global seemed to have fallen out of the title race after its shock loss.

During the same stretch, Air Force started picking up its game, allowing them to nearly surpass them this UFL pace.

But Global gives the Aviators a chance with a 1-0 win over Kaya Cignal Sunday where Aaron Atkins scored the gold that saved its title aspirations.

Air Force could have sealed the title earlier, but they lost to Laya, 0-1. The Airmen jumped to second with a 4-0 shutdown of Army Fritz and Wounded Veteran Sunday.

Additional squadron points were chosen, but not should be two ones to call. Air Force and Global also played to a 1-1 draw in the first round.

Army is coming off a 3-0 win over Laguna Wednesday.

PSC sacks Pabillore, 4 other karatekas

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RIO ROSTRENO as compete in the ongoing Philippine National Games Embodied, Asian Games silver medalist Mama Dalubhasa and four other national karatedo athletes have been stripped of their monthly allowances and training privileges.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia said Pabillore, also a bash re-

PABILLORE PNG AT

Smart Gilas faces tough Asian test

By Cedrik P. Tupas

THE SMART Gilas national team won't have any tougher tournament in preparation for the Olympic qualifiers this year than the Fiba Asia Champions Cup opening tomorrow at the Philsports arena.

The Smart Gilas will have their hands full, making it one with the top club teams in Asia, which will be reinforced by a stellar cast of reports. Some of the clubs will also feature the core of their country's national teams.

"It's more tougher than the Jones Cup," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman at a press conference hosted by Sports5 which will air the Champions Cup games live.

The Jones Cup is a prestigious annual tournament in Taiwan that hosts the top national teams in Asia and where several Philippine teams have figured prominently in the past.

"You can just imagine the quality in (the Champions Cup). It will be played at a high level. There will be two great players in every team," said Toroman. Gilas has been grouped with Malaysia, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia in the tournament.

"The biggest test for us is this tournament and I think we are ready," said the Serbian who entered him to the Olympics in 2008. "Now is the time to show everybody that Smart Gilas can be competitive with the best in Asia."

Gilas has more time on its exhibition matches, including against Saudi Arabia, 9PM, Wednesday night and Toroman expects his squad to finish at least second in the group, where Jordan is also a favorite.

The stellar import cast in the tournament includes NBA veterans Jamaal Walker, who will team up with Jamaal Miller in Syrian club Al Jaish, and one-time Smart Gilas naturalization candidate CJ Giles, who will power Iraqi team Duhok together with Chadney Corey.

Jordan, represented by MBL1 line import/player PBA import Jamaal Watkins and Ryan Powilson-Reilly while Saudi Arabia will rely on Serbian Stefan Stojaljevic and Darren Keely Lamar, defending champion Al Ahli of Malaysia will be reinforced by Senegalese player Cheik Samb and Chris Williams, a veteran of the Jordanian league.

Qatar, bolstered by Al-Rayyan, will have Damarre Leslie and Renaat Farrad, Al-Riyadi of Lebanon has signed Jamal Abroad and Lamar Mikaels and the 85 champion of Malaysia will be powered by Marcus Morrison and Christopher Ayre.

Toroman hoped that the national team's buildup to the Fiba Asia Championship, which will stake a slot to the London Olympics, will also include tournaments in Turkey and Kenya in July.

PAWN Barroca (right) is one of the Smart Gilas national team's key men in the Fiba Asia Champions Cup

Race on!

Kids, families, laugh and run their way to the finish line at the Alaska Run Fest

While event planners may have aims to encourage more PWDs to the sports, the event is also about bonding. "I feel good after I run. I can also hobnob not with school. I listened to his patience and to stay committed no matter how hard a lesson is," The 11-year-old Israel, in run in count, also encouraged her not to run alone at the time. Her family Run Iconic in the field at Alaska Saturday, 7 -30 H.

"Ang sarap ng feeling na nakatapos ka ng isang bagay na ikaw ang pinaka-inspirasyon especially with something that she really wants ... and she wants to run, no doubt about that," says dad Ferdinand Bonilla.

According to Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, Jr., president and CEO of Alaska Milk Corporation, that is exactly what they hope to achieve with the Alaska Run. "It's not a competition. It's purely intramural. We getting our sports and encouraging them parents at time to get into it too ... especially now with kinds of them spending too much time with their play stations or on the Internet. We want the whole family to live an healthy lifestyle."

The Alaska Family Run is only the first part of the Alaska Run Fest, presented by Alaska Cricket and Alaska Sweet Milk! The other part is the Alaska Milk Invitational Philippines second-leg Road Family Run and Invitational Philippines are perfect venues for families to bond with each other and just have fun. At the same time, the race also promotes the values that Alaska is pushing for: passion, determination, integrity, and discipline. Alaska Family Run, which features dad and her dad joined, was for families looking for healthy bonding activities. Alaska Invitational, on the other hand, is for active children of the Sweet Invitational Invitational events. It is for more serious young runners. It is 14 years old.

All in the Family

All around, kids and their parents in their running best strove on the finishing ribbon waiting for their turn to race while others warm them-ing their families on. Some parents, like Jay Bautista, who signed up for the Alaska Family Run with his 4-year-old daughter Kristine, turned his fresh food children to their finish line. Other young runners to run on their parents' backs.

11-year-old Lito Delvigo didn't mind his "Dad" to the finish line. Although he had only just discovered running, Lito Jr. did not waste time and joined Sports Philippines Invitational in the 3km category. What he found about the Alaska Family Run, he was elated as it would be the first time that the whole family would run together.

"My race is the runner in the family. I just do it for health reasons. It's not really important if we win or not. When you are old like me, running is a great exercise. It's not strenuous," says Lito Jr., with a smooth smile in his face.

Run for health

Health was also the reason why Israel Bicera parents got two run invitees. Where he was little, he had asthma. The doctor recommended that Israel learn to swim and that started his triathlon career. Israel placed third in the Alaska Invitational Philippines Run Fest 3R-Boys (ag (11-14 years old category.) His sister topped Bicera, who is also a triathlete, was ecstatic when placed third in the 3R-Girls Division (11-12 years old category).

"We are really happy across things turned out for them. They're healthy all around now. They get good grades and they're very well adjusted. Sports gives them so much more than physical benefits," says their mother Noel Bicera.

Health and higher will definitely be at the core Alaska Milk Invitational Philippines legs which have the following schedule: Leg 1: Aquathlon (in May 22 at The Palms Country Club, Alabang; Leg 2: Aquathlon (in July 3 at SUTRA, Pasay), Leg 3: Triathlon (in August 12 at the Clarkdue Waterpoint) Complex in Clarkfield; the last Leg 4: Triathlon on October 30 at Nuvali, Laguna.

Alaska Milk has always promoted healthy and active lifestyle through its Alaska Milk Invitational programs, which include the Alaska Power Camps, the Alaska Football Cup, Alaska Invitational and more recently, Alaska's partnership with the U- NBA. The Alaska Run Fest is another initiative that fulfills the milk company's goal to make health fun for kids and their families through sports.

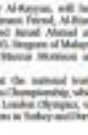
For more information on Alaska Milk Invitational Philippines or to register for the upcoming legs, log on to www.milkinvitational.com. You can also see the results of the race there. You may also visit www.facebook.com/ph and www.facebook.com/alaskaphilippines for details on the company's sports programs.

Invitational Run Mall Of Asia Results

3KM	
BOYS	GIRLS
10	
9	
8	
7	
6	
5KM	
BOYS	GIRLS
10	
9	
8	
7	
6	
10KM	
BOYS	GIRLS
10	
9	
8	
7	
6	

TNT import holds Grand Slam key

By Hussyn R. Castillo



MAINTOC

TALK 'N' TEXT's chances of making last the fifth Grand Slam in Philippine Basketball Association history could very well rest on the shoulders of its import.

Cyrus Hinkle, Jason Chambers and Billy Ray Bates have gone down in league history as some of the greatest imports of all time, not only because of their skills, but also because they guided their respective squads to complete reverse Grand Slams.

Hinkle was the pillar and catalyst of the 1976 Crispa crew that completed the first reverse Crispa rode Billy Ray Bates to its second triple crown in 1983 while Chambers helped Alaska to the 1996—and latest—feat.

The other Grand Slam team was San Miguel Beer in 1989, which did it behind a deep and talented trio of Ralph Sampson (four-time MVP Ramon Fernandez and all-time great Jaworski Lim and Hector Calma.

"The import will make all the difference for all the teams, especially for Talk 'N' Text, because of its handicap," said Tim Cone, the 1983 architect of Crispa and the man responsible for bringing Bates to the country.

Talk 'N' Text will be allowed an import of not more than 6-foot-2 in height, and Manotoc said that Maestro Ildefol, the National Basketball Association vet that the Texters signed, should be able to play more than the guard spot for the team to succeed.

"The problem with their import is that he is a guard and he will come into a team that has the best guard rotation in the league," Manotoc said. "I think Ildefol should be able to play big undersized, otherwise, the other teams have the advantage."

Manotoc's assessment is based on the fact that Ildefol might take out either Jimmy Alapag, Jason Castro or Span Reyes from their rotation since being a natural guard.

"If that happens, the import will, in effect, not be truly productive for the team because he will be taking the spot of one great player among Alapag, Castro and Reyes away."

If the Ildefol is 6-2 imports are more teams like Miguel, Barangay Ginebra and Coffee Mix. Abadia, Mercado, Ah21 and Rain or Shine have been given 6-foot-4 imports.

Only Powerade, eliminated in each of the first two conferences, will have a 6-foot-6 import for the conference that gets going on June 11, coincidently in Bacolod.

Solon seeks probe of Buncio's death

By Pilar, Anthony Reyes

THE HOUSE of Representatives is set to conduct an inquiry into the shoot-death of Super Liga racing champion Hesse Greg Buncio.

Party-list Rep. Black Aaron Sandoz of the Prosecu ng Recusing Aduss recently filed a resolution directing the House committee on youth and sports to look into the tragic accident on May 15 that claimed the life of Buncio, who crashed in a qualifying round of the Underbone King race at the Clark International Speedway in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Sandoz said HR 1280 will try to determine whether safety standards in Philippine motor sports events and race tracks are enough, and whether race organizers in the Clark Speedway has been remiss in ensuring safety standards.

The resolution also will seek to find out if the accident that killed Buncio could have been avoided.

Reports said the 23-year-old Buncio, a four-time national Superbikes champion, died hours after crashing into a steel bar reinforcement that was part of the race track's safety shed safety barrier.

Buncio has distinguished greatly in the development of local racing, providing inspiration to a lot of young potentials to get into motorsports and bringing back excitement to and interest in superbike racing," said Sandoz.

"He is a big fan in motorcycle racing and in Philippine motorsports in general."

The 1984 representative also filed another resolution expressing the House's sympathy and condolences to Buncio's family.

Clark Speedway operator Johnny Tan said they will conduct a House investigation and will cooperate with the proceedings.

"We will help shed light on the same and, maybe, do something positive out of what happened," said Tan, who feared they are conducting a parallel inquiry into the tragedy.

He said they are still interviewing the contestants and will with reinforcing the race circuit's safety barriers.

Buncio died at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in Manila the day after the accident. Doctors said he sustained punctured kidney and liver and expired while undergoing surgery.

Alvarez shines as Freego knocks out Maynilad five

By Cedrik P. Tupas

FREEGO JEANS boasted on Lester Alvarez's last shooting in the second half to trounce Maynilad, 88-81, yesterday at the start of the knockout phase of the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at the FEGH Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Adamson playmaker fired 16 of his 25 points in the last two periods as Freego forged a quarter-final duel with Group B top seed Go Hotama Likers.

"We had a lot of defensive lapses in the first half, but we were able to recover in the second half," said Freego coach Leo Austria.

Later, Blackwater Elite averted a fourth quarter collapse to down Arnier Pinero-ale, 76-68, and also advance to the next round.

Former Ateneo ace Go Orioneo led the charge with 21 points for Blackwater, which sent Jason Max Brad Wong Chee.

Blackwater watched in nine-point lead reduced to two, 68-66, in the last 58 seconds on two free throws by Mike Gamboa.

JAMES YUKOREY (1990-Flying V Arena)
5 p.m. — Freego Jeans vs. Pinero-ale
Pinero-ale 76 (Gamboa 21, Ramos 20, Alcoran 10, Cortez 7, Ramos 6, Cortez 5, Cortez 4, Cortez 3, Cortez 2, Cortez 1, Cortez 0) — Freego Jeans 68 (Alcoran 16, Cortez 15, Cortez 14, Cortez 13, Cortez 12, Cortez 11, Cortez 10, Cortez 9, Cortez 8, Cortez 7, Cortez 6, Cortez 5, Cortez 4, Cortez 3, Cortez 2, Cortez 1, Cortez 0)

Run for clean water slated

THE 17TH Philippine Water Rivers (PWR) is on, a multileg running event that aims to boost awareness on the importance of water and raise funds to provide access to clean and potable water, has since Aug. 2010 (Sat).

The PWR, which is a CSR-dedicated event, is to be held in Manila, Naga, Baguio and Angeles Clark. The Metro Marketing in December will include a 21K category.

The 5K and 10K categories will accommodate runners 15 years and older. The 21K event is open to all runners.

PWR is in line with the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals that promote children's welfare and the preparation of the young women to become conscious citizens of the pregnant women.

"It is both noble and ethical that as technology—such as ours has little access to safe drinking water," says Irwin Pe, president of sponsoring Swipe Global resources.

Let's support our national five

INSIDE SPORTS
Ronnie Nathanielsz

WHILE PUBLIC support and interest in professional hoops has grown substantially due largely to the amazing achievements of people-by-proud King Manny Pacquiao and NBA superstar Jeremy "The Filipino Flash" Lin, basketball consistently remains the sporting passion of the nation.

No other sport has drawn as many to play the game—or try to—as basketball. And while not all Filipinos (not necessarily only men) be profiled as by those whose memories linger in the net while the Philippines dominated the sport in Asia and finished third in the World Championships in Board in 1954, it is still the sport that embraces all Filipinos fellow, irrespective and creed.

No other sport boasts of as many leagues and tournaments all-year round as basketball.

With a passionate love of the game as the fundamental, businessmen-sportsmen may others be Manny Pangilinan, who is president of the governing body, Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, the amateurist office to restore the Philippines' rightful place in Asia-continental.

The excitement of basketball and its hold on people from all walks of life and of all ages can be glimpsed from the following of the collegiate leagues, the various amateur tournaments and, of course, the pro league PBA.

The fact that such a phenomenon network as ABS-CBN covers the UAAP and NCAA, the Champions League and other tournaments is no doubt a testament to the popularity of the sport and the audiences it commands.

The Solar Sports coverage of the NBA over Studio 23 has added another dimension to the league in terms of the audience it reaches and the possibilities for the near future.

The resurgence of ABC 5 in the sporting arena adds to a network rivalry that should further strengthen interest in other sports, not just basketball, and enhance the visual and production quality of the coverage.

It will also provide another venue for the advocate of basketball, boxing, football and other sports following a tie-up with BIC 13, where currently the 30th Interbarangay League games are shown.

It is quite effort to spot Filipinos in France to watch the Soccer Clubs national team, honoring its skills for the tough game in the 90m man quadrilateral, the Rugby Leagues Olympics, the Golf in hosting the Asia Pacific Championship Cup beginning Monday in the Philippine Arena, formerly known as the Ultra.

Our people need to turn out and provide the kind of support our national team needs, as well as those visiting venues from the Middle East—where the jersey now resides, besides China of course—that we lost the spirit and mind behind our Smart Gilas national team cannot be less high-notes.

Frankly, we can do no less.

Torre trounces Indonesian IM

By Roy Luarca

TAGAYTAY CITY—Eugene Torre, Asia's first Grandmaster, continued his amazing climb last night, whipping Indonesian IM Utut Tazdik and gaining a temporary share of the lead after four rounds of the Asian Zonal Chess Championships at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

It was the third straight victory for the 58-year old Torre after losing to an upset to young countrymen and Palo Master Haridas Fleuras in the first round.

Also with 3½ points are Filipino trashtalker Mark Paragua and Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Tung, who drew their match after 30 moves of a Catalan system, and third round pacesetter GM Darwin Laylo, who is handing Montenegro GM Goi Sang (2½ points) a tough opponent.

"I was able to control the C-file and launch an attack," said Torre, who was quality up with a rook and bishop against bishop and knight when Oshay resigned after 43 moves of a London opening.

Torre also beat Emmanuel Emparanado in the second round, then outscored the full point against Edgar Boggie Glay in the last rounded of match of the third round last Wednesday.

Laylo, the 2009 Asian Zonal champion, surged on top by beating Vietnamese NL Nguyen Van Huy in the third round Wednesday.

At 2½ points were GM John Paul Gomez and IM Rolando Nolte, who agreed to a draw in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and hosted by the Tagaytay City government through Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

Filipino IM Oliver Barbosa (2½ points) is still gunning for a win against Singaporean top seed GM Zhang Zhong (2½ points).

The 27 year-old Barajas and Barbosa, who's bidding for his second GM result, drew their third round match Caccedo/Nguyen preceded over Indonesians IM Cordas Ravza and Filipino IM Oliver Dayadding, respectively.

Meanwhile, Palo Queen-national Elena Sedenio) press officer Milma Ilan praised the organizers for a well-run tournament.

"I'm going this Asian Zonals a high grade," said Ilan, who was sent here as observer by Palo president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

TORRE

Tigers try to bolster q'final bid

By Cedrik F. Tupas

UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas seeks an unconquered quarterfinal today when it takes on Ateneo 8 in the PBDO Flying V Baseo Preseason Premiere Cup.

With a 3-2 record, the Tigers can move up to third in their bracket with a victory over the already-eliminated Chiefs in 4 p.m. at the PBDO Flying V Center in San Juan.

"Our game is picking up," said UST coach Pido Jarencio in Filipino. "We want to win these playing this way. So we have to be excited now to play our best so when the UAAP season comes, we will play even better."

University of the Philippines faces St. Benilde at 1:15 p.m. with the Maroons also looking to gain more than a quarterfinal spot in group B.

The Fighting Maroons are hoping to extend a two-game winning run and stay third in their group joined by Ateneo (1), which owns a 7-0 record.

Alinko Abiodun Acquaysian shot at the Isaiaro Blind the Maroons in a 78-76 win over University of the East.

UST looks to ride on its impressive 91-55 victory over Ipicrom the last time out in the tournament backed by Hindi Flying V Sorry to Call, BOQ Orry cam, Bayo and Hodges.

Diaz smashes 6 marks as lifters frolick

From page A29

2000 National Open in Cebu and the national standard of 79 in the junior category. He also smashed the junior records in the clean and jerk and total with lifts of 98 and 174.

Patricia Llena, 17, reared her mark in the match 000, which she set in the 2010 Youth Olympics, and total (141) in a Dubai meet two years ago by posting 63 and 86, respectively.

The younger Llena, 14, submitted a 75 in the match 60/63 in the clean and jerk for a total of 136 to demolish Baker's records of 60-67-127 established in 2008 in Bogao.

Winning their respective weight classes in unlimited were Ferdinand Bellen (men's bantam), Billy Ann Stevie Ilac, Samuel Thomas Morrison Digbel, Arra Marie Lourdes Jeremias's Jessica Lopez and Lindy Jessie Magdal Ilac.

In young national team member Judd Lorenzo Kimbell cut Michael Catalan of Iloilo City to snag the gold in the men's lightweight category while Jojo Mora (featherweight), Mark Tiaa (flyweight), Ary Harold Gregorio (welter), May Rose (women's featherweight) and Jonathan Pelal (men's 69kg) topped their respective classes.

John Mark Galeclo added the men's trad race gold a day after topping the individual time trial in cycling. The 2009 Tour of Luzon champ, won the 60 km race in Marcia town in two hours, 51 minutes and 48 seconds.

Simeon Jake Wayside-Alamos clocked in at second (3:01:37) and Leopoldo Japitana of Bataan completed the podium (3:01:34).

Japitana seized the momentum like gold on Wednesday in 1:33:26, beating Guangzhou team Carmo campaigner Mohr Stevens (1:33:28) and Ildefonso Alcasid (1:39:18).

PSC sacks...

From page A28

back Southeast Asian Games champion, as well as Sharil Ali, Jim Paul Morales, Raymund Mojica, Renato Manalo and their coaches will be removed from the payroll starting June.

The group will also be asked to vacate their quarters at the Philsports complex.

"They know the consequences of their acts, or maybe they really intended to do that," said Iturbe in yesterday's Usapang POC radio show on Iyanis Radio.

"Not only the athletes but also the coaches — they will all be removed if there's no valid reason. If they are injured, we need medical certificate."

All the turnabouts are loyal to the group of Go Teng Kok, who heads a faction in the Philippine Gymnastics Federation.

Go, who is also the national athletics chief, is contesting the federation's presidency with the group of Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco, who has since stepped down as POC-recognized PEF head.

Go said the athletes did not intend to boycott the PSC but were wary they wouldn't get a fair shake because the tournament is being run by their foes and sharpened Jun Reyes, two officials elevated to officer-in-charge.

"I have catches captured on camera what the officials are doing in the (cabal) group," said Go.

The PEF held POC-installed elections in Baseball last Wednesday with board member Enrico Vazquez unanimously elected as the new PEF chief, replacing Romasanta.

"We have already watched all athletes in the national pool last June after ball to compete in the games but no valid reason will be stricken off the payroll," Garcia said. "What they (the karambola) did to their incidentitorates and we are here to protect government funds."

90 fights in Cyberfriends charity derby at Pasay

SINEDUCATION.PH presents another charity bout, gamefresh.net action-packed 90 fights in the Cyber friends Mabuhay Charity 3 Cock Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit with more than 90 fights on the line.

The champions will receive a grand prize of P700,000.

The long list of competitors include Jojo Marquez of Batangas, Bong De Guzman of Tarlac, Cyberfriends Raul Sison of Palawan, James Frand TJ Marquez of Rizal, Edgar Castaneda of Cavite, Alex Ramos of Laguna, Joey Bravo, Jun Cruz and Manang Bravo.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. VI-A
(Western Visayas - Region VI)
Iloilo City

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Citizenship of Alien Employee	Position and Date/ Duration of Validity
1.	GRUPO CEL CPP Bldg. Iloilo - Antique Rd.	Mr. Alfonso Ferrer Mexican	Safety Manager
2.	ENGINEERING, INC Lot 1, Block 5, Phase 1, Ortigas Center	Mr. Nestor Pilgadian Filipino	Operations Manager
3.	FILIP SOLUTION SERVICES, INC. UP Bldg. Mandurriao, West Lagunz	Mr. Rutgers Salamanca Japanese	Sales and Marketing Advisor
4.	SPECIALTY FOOD GROUP (PHILS.), INC. Iloilo Technology Center, Lapa City	Mr. Tilman Konstantin Apostolos German	Technical Engineering Operations Manager

If you have any information/statement to the above mentioned, you may advise us/ communicate with the Regional Director

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR. CESO III
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
Region XI
Province of Davao
CENTER OF THE 8TH ASIA KRAVEN COMMITTEE
(1) Ramon Magsaysay Cotabato St. Tel. No. 082-2004471 Fax No. 082-2004202

Invitation to Bid

For the Supply and Delivery of Materials for the Conservation of Coco Diadem for "Vulnerably Endemic Regional Plants" (CDVs) under "PAMANA" Program

The Local Government Unit of Pagsanjan, through the budget from the Office of the President, through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Office XI, intends to apply the sum of Two Million Pesos (₱ 1,800,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to purchase/procure the various Drugs and Medicines/Materials for the Construction of Coco Diadem for "Vulnerably Endemic Regional Plants" (CDVs) under "PAMANA" Program at Brgy. Lubao, Pagsanjan, Cotabato. An ABC/LGU Guarantee Bond in the form of cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank shall be required upon submission of the bid.

The Local Government Unit of Pagsanjan now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of Materials for the construction of Coco Diadem for "Vulnerably Endemic Regional Plants" (CDVs) under "PAMANA" Program. Delivery of the Goods is required within Thirty (30) Calendar Days. Bidders should have completed, within one (1) Calendar Days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subsidiary guidelines in Section 5 of IRR.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Local Government Unit of Pagsanjan and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on this 27 to June 10, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Hundred Pesos (₱ 200.00).

The Local Government Unit of Pagsanjan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. L. ALVARADO
Municipal Engineer/Chairman
Local Government Unit of Pagsanjan
Pagsanjan, Cotabato Tel. No. 064-2004471

Approved by:

ROBERTO S. ALEJO
Municipal Mayor

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THE MAKING OF A VALEDICTORIAN

Maureen Sabelan Ong, Valedictorian of High School Class 2011 of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), is not an ordinary student. At one hand she's reading her text books, and on the other she's dribbling a ball. She was the power forward of the Carolina Filipinas Under 15 Women's Basketball Team which placed 2nd in the 2010 SMAAK Schools Cluster.

The education at SISC was partly through the kindness of a scholarship foundation. And though she had a lot of struggles, they paid off handsomely for her. In the graduation rites last April 2011, she delivered a very powerful speech which inspired all the people present. Below are some excerpts:

"It is truly a great honor for me to stand here today to speak on behalf of our fellow graduates. But it is a greater privilege representing the class of 2011 because unlike most of you, I was not born with the proverbial silver spoon in my mouth. Sometimes I wonder why I was born in the Philippines? And I would get a simple answer from my parents, INVESTMENT. That was enough to give me inspiration, hope, and the power of positive thinking."

"To our long suffering mothers and long suffering parents, whose only luxury is reading me and my siblings to sleep, thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. To all the parents present today, if you can save some of half worth in your children today, you have it, not worth even to refer to until your children in Southville. To my mentors, my sincerest gratitude for helping me become the person I turned through. I could say, We just don't encounter competent individuals without a lot of different investments in a lot of people in the educational system. The greatest investment of this school does taught us how to be self-motivated, self-assessment and productive members of society."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009, as amended, the JBC will conduct a public interview at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Building, Supreme Court, of the following candidates for the positions of:

A. DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR LUZON (vice Hon. Mark E. Jaandoni)

10 June 2011 (Friday)	13 June 2011 (Monday)	14 June 2011 (Tuesday)
1. CARAGAT, ILDEFONSO 2. DIMAYUGA, EDMUNDO V. 3. DIVITA, ROQUE DIKRAYA A. 4. DAVID, STEPHEN L. 5. DIZON, MEDARDO E.	1. PAGUIO, ROSARIO H. 2. PERALTA, HENRY JOEL L. 3. QUILLERMO, MARY SUSAN E. 4. JAREZUELA, FRANCISCO 5. APOLLO, RAFAEL S. 6. GALACE, ROBERT S.	1. BAUTISTA, MA. ANGELINA T. 2. BERNARDO, GERARD S. 3. ROMERO, JUDY 4. TAYLOR, MA. SOPHIA B. 5. TIROL, OSCAR HM.

B. OMBUDSMAN (vice Hon. Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez)

10 June 2011 (Wednesday)	13 June 2011 (Tuesday)	14 June 2011 (Wednesday)
1. ACOSTA, FREDERICK P. 2. AGUINALDO, PHILIP S. 3. APOSTOL, PEJLAGO T. 4. ARAMBURO, LEAH T. 5. BELTRAN, PRISCILLA M. E.	1. BELTRAN, ANTONIO P. 2. CALDA, JOSE C. 3. CALUZA, HONORIO E. 4. CARAG, FELIX JR. D. 5. CARPIO-MORALES, CONCHITA	1. CASTAÑEDA, EMILIANO C. 2. CHAVEZ, FRANCISCO 3. DIOKNO, JOSE MANUEL 4. DIVINAGRACIA, ROMULO T. 5. FRANCISCO, ERNESTO JR. D.

15 June 2011 (Tuesday)	16 June 2011 (Wednesday)
1. FRANCISCO, RAYMUND T. 2. GENERILLO, OSTALDO JR. A. 3. HORNACHUELOS, PORFELA. 4. INFANTE, EMELIA T. 5. LANUZA, FRANCIS H. 6. MANUEL, ANGELINA I.	1. MENDOZA, GERARD A. 2. OMBOSO, SHAKKINAH B. 3. RAJAS, RAMON R. 4. ROBERES, ROY V. 5. TAGLENG, ARTEMIO S. 6. VILLENA, FLORENCIO U.

Likewise, the JBC announces that candidates for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** who are scheduled for interview on **30 and 31 June 2011** will be interviewed on **14 and 15 July 2011**, respectively.

The JBC also announces that the following are applicants for judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS (RTCs): NCJR: MARIKINA CITY (Br. 272): ARANDIA, Glenn D. Dizon; **CAMPANILLA**, Mario Bonoan; **CANTERO**, Rio Antonio L. Langcuta; **CARIÑO**, Wilumeda M.; **CASTILLO**, Alfredo Aguanto; **DE VERA**, Andy Soriano; **GARCIA**, Leonardo Sotto; **GONZALES**, Susanita Dimaio; **JUANSON**, Ma. Cristina Sarmiento; **MANAHAN**, Maribeth Rodriguez; **PACHECO**, Avanny Castellanos; **PILAR**, Jennifer Alberto; **RIDAD**, Henry S. Gonzalez; **TABULDAN-GRAVINO**, Nida Calagos; **TUGNA**, Romeo Dario; **MAKATI CITY: 144, 147 and 149:** BARAÑA, Ma. Rita A. Ramos; **STA. CRUZ**, Manuel R.; **PASIG: MANDALUYONG: QUEZON CITY: MAKATI CITY and MANILA:** SAMUAN-MILORADA, Marina B. PANCO, Peter Z.

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS (MTCs): QC: ANASTACIO: MENDIOLETA: Narita Casuncho; **CAMPANILLA**, Mario Bonoan; **CANTERO**, Rio Antonio Langcuta; **ESQUERRA**, Carolina De Jesus; **DE VERA**, Andy Soriano; **GONZALES**, Susanita Dimaio; **MAPAGU**, Edwin Bautista; **NARAZA**, Susanna Cabanlasan; **PALMA**, Giovanni Dino; **TABULDAN-GRAVINO**, Nida Calagos; **CALOOCAN: MANILA: MAKATI CITY: CEBU**, Maria Cheryl L.

The public may submit to the JBC sworn complaint, report, or opposition (in ten legible copies) against any of the aforesaid applicants, not later than **06 June 2011 (Monday)**.

26 May 2011

ENRIQUETA E. VIDAL
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

SPORTS

Mavs close out Thunder, book NBA Finals ticket

HAVE HAM-MEN Mavericks owner Mark Cuban (left) and superstar Dirk Nowitzki celebrate during the trophy presentation. AP

DALLAS—Dirk Nowitzki scored a go-ahead three-pointer with 1:14 left and Shawn Marion followed with a three-point play as the Dallas Mavericks booked a spot in the NBA Finals with a 108-96 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday.

The pivotal plays lowered yet another fourth-quarter conclusion, this one helping the Mavericks close out the Western Conference finals in five games.

After dawning back from 15 points down with 7:04 left in Game 4, the Mavericks were down by six with 4:37 left in this one when they rallied again, outscoring the Thunder 14-4 the rest of the way.

"They played a small lineup and really tried to jump the game up," Nowitzki told reporters of the Thunder. "They shifted us on transition all night long and you've got to give them credit. They left it all out there today."

Dallas has never seen a disappointing end to a playoff season. Nowitzki and Jason Terry were part of the only Mavericks team to make the finals, in 2006. They were up 2-0 and leading late in Game 5, but lost the series to the Miami Heat in six games.

"We were right there where we wanted to be but couldn't close out," said Nowitzki. "We are back again and hopefully with a better result now."

Dallas could get another chance to play the Heat. LeBron James and Miami beat the Chicago Bulls 3-1 in the Eastern Conference finals. If the Heat win Thursday, the finals will begin Sunday in Miami. If the Bulls win Thursday, the finals will begin next Thursday in the East winner's city.

"If I can tell everybody in, we said done per," Mavs owner Mark Cuban said during the on-court trophy presentation ceremony. Seconds later, fans began chanting, "Beat the Heat," drowning out coach Rick Carlisle's on-court interview.

"All of us, including all of our fans, believe," said Carlisle. "We believe in each other. This is a great moment but we've got a lot of work left."

Nowitzki and Shawn each scored 26 points, and were at their best in the fourth quarter. Nowitzki scored nine in the final period. And despite an early break in the first set, it worked just fine as the third-seeded Swiss won 13 straight games from 3-3 in the opener.

"I had to keep my focus to start with, because you never know what might happen and what he does, his abilities, his talent, his skills," the 2009 French Open champion said.

Up next for Federer is a more familiar opponent, 20th-seeded Janko Tipsarevic. The Serb took Federer to five sets in the third round of the 2008 Australian Open, eventually losing 10-8.

"I think he's a dangerous player on the big courts against the big players. He played really well against those players, so let's see (how) he's playing," Federer said.

Tipsarevic came within one point of losing in the highest-seeded player to bow on Tue The Wimbledon and US Open runner-up had to save a match point while trailing 3-2, before eventually beating an ailing Gabine Lisicki of Germany 4-6, 7-5, 7-5. AP

DALLAS' Jason Terry (center) tries to keep possession under pressure from Oklahoma's Russel Westbrook. AP

Federer fetches decades-old memory after ripping rookie

PARIS—Roger Federer has been in nearly the exact same position as Maxime Teixeira found himself at the French Open, staring across the net at one of the game's greats.

More than a decade ago, long before the 16 Grand Slam titles and the millions of dollars in earnings, a green-as-could-be Federer stood opposite Andre Agassi in a tournament in his hometown of Basel, Switzerland.

"You know, on the one hand, that you can't win," Federer said shortly after beating Teixeira, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0, Wednesday in the second round. "And if you win, it's like a miracle. A crazy miracle."

Novak Djokovic also rumbled the third-seeded at Roland Garros, advancing after frustrated opponent Viktor Troicki retired with an injury while trailing, 6-4, 6-1, 2-1. The win extended his perfect start in 2011 to 39-0 and stretched his overall winning streak to 41.

For the women, 2010 French Open finalist Francesca Schiavone and Sam Stosur both advanced easily, while top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki and third-seeded Petra Kvitova had more difficult matches in the third round.

On Thursday, five-time champion Rafael Nadal is scheduled to be back on court—two days after being stretched to five sets for the first time in his French Open career. Nils Cijsters and Mats Shamgren are also set to play.

Federer came into Wednesday's match with a plan against a player with a career record of 3-0—his first-round victory

ROGER Federer cocks a racket to Maxime Teixeira.

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Asean seniors golf tournament slated July

THE 20TH Asean Seniors Amateur Golf Championship tees off July 4 to 6 at the Mimosa and Fontana golf courses in Pampanga, marking the event's return to the country after six years.

The tournament will be held under the wings of the Federation of Philippine Amateur Seniors Golf Inc. (FPASGI), a member-associate of the Confederation of Asian Senior Golfers Association (Casga).

Organizing Committee Chair Clyde Fernandez said over 250 senior golfers from South-east Asia are expected to fly in to compete for top honors in the tournament last played here in 2006 at Eagle Ridge.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Bid

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES OF A TREATMENT, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL FACILITY (TSDF) FOR THE TIMELY DISPOSAL OF HEALTH CARE WASTES OF 10 HOSPITALS IN METRO MANILA

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Businesses bullish over near-term prospects

By Michelle V. Ruivo

BUSINESS SENTIMENT for the second quarter remains positive, although it may be less bullish than that reported the previous year.

Results of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Business Expectation Survey showed that the confidence index (CI) for businesses stood at +33.8 percent for the second quarter—a decline from the +47.0 percent reported in the first quarter and the +44.5 percent for the second quarter of last year.

Confidence index is the difference between the percentage of respondents who say they feel good about their financial performance and that of the overall economy, and the percentage of those who are pessimistic.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in a briefing yesterday that the lower, yet still positive, business confidence index indicated that the economy would likely perform well at least over the short term.

He said the business confidence index was a relatively good indicator of the economy's performance over the short term. This is because a confident business sector usually fuels higher investments which, in turn, generate more jobs and raise overall income levels.

Some of the concerns raised by the respondents for the second quarter included the political unrest in some oil-producing countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The unrest has re-

ALSO SEE P2

BSP says traders continue to bank on economy's strong performance

Aboitiz to power up 300-MW Davao plant

By Amy R. Remo

THE ABOITIZ led Thomas Aveli has received the Board of Investment approval to develop a 300-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Davao City.

According to the BOI, the P24.9-billion project is expected to create 121 jobs and, once inaugurated, provide much-needed additional power supply to the Mindanao grid.

"The plant was designed for base load application and is intended to supply the electricity requirements of Mindanao. It will use clean technologies in its operation and will source its coal requirements from Indonesia," the BOI said in a statement.

Once it starts commercial operations in January 2015, the Davao coal plant will provide electricity to distribution utilities including Davao Light and Power Corp., Cotabato Light and Power Corp., Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative Inc. and Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc.

The power to be generated will be delivered via the Mindanao grid upon the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

"This will go a long way toward not only meeting the energy requirements of

ABOITIZ, B9

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Millennium Challenge grant takes effect** /B7

■ **Aussie firms keen on oil and gas sector** /B9

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

May 26, 2011

43.420

Share prices bounce back

SHARE PRICES yesterday bounced back from a five-day slump, allowing the composite to climb back to the 4,200 level, as bargain-hunters picked up selected blue chips and second-liners.

The main share Philippine Stock

SHARE, B9

Retirement age dilemma

IF THERE is one legislative proposal that senator sit keen to see reaching can find common cause with today, it's Senate Bill No. 2797 sponsored by Sen. Michael Defensor Santiago.

The bill seeks to amend the compulsory retirement age of govern ment employees from 65 to 70 years.

Echoing the sentiments earlier expressed by a retiring University of the Philippines professor, the bill cites improved life expectancy due to advances in medicine and the productive use of experience gained. From long years of service as justifications for its stated intent into law.

In the private sector, the general rule is, if a business entity has no retirement plan or agreement providing for retirement benefits in place, mandatory retirement kicks in at age 65.

The law exempts from this requirement retail, service and agricultural establishments or operations that employ not more than 10 employees or workers.

The exemption rests on the premise that these businesses are considered "mom-and-pop" or family enterprises that engage the services of household members or people who are within the traditional Filipino extended family network.

The benefits of the compulsory system that family businesses usually provide for their relatives or hired workers often exceed the retirement pay that they are required at 22 days salary for every year of service.

Incentive

The arguments raised for extending the period of service in government apply equally to the private sector.

In fact, in terms of health protection most private companies, compared to government offices, are more generous in the grant of medical privileges and benefits to their personnel.

The growth of the health maintenance organization (or HMO) business in the country has made it possible for companies to make available to their staff prompt and effective medical assistance at affordable costs which are, for tax purposes, considered deductible expenses.

While remaining employed by the longer periods may be advantageous to the company and to the veteran employees concerned, the employees below them stand to be adversely affected by such extensions.

Prolonging the services of veteran executives inevitably delays (or prevents) the promotion of young, competent subordinates.

The average (or mediocre) employee may be content with any work assignment given them, but not the intelligent or ambitious employees with marketable skills.

The latter, especially if they are graduates of elite schools or have outperformed higher-ranked co-employees, will have no incentive to give their best if they think the route to the executive floor is blocked by seemingly overstaying executives.

Ambition

A company can only give so much compensation, perks and privileges to hardworking, ambitious employees to encourage them to stay on the job while waiting for the plum slots above them to make room for retirement and decide they've had enough of corporate life.

If the room at the top is clogged with septuagenarians in good physical and

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corporation

(a corporation organized under Philippine laws)

STOCK RIGHTS OFFER
of 1,165,237,923 Common Shares with par value of P1.00 per Share at an Offer Price of P1.00 per Share to existing common shareholders of record as of May 18, 2011 at a ratio of seven Rights Shares for every ten Common Shares held as of May 18, 2011.

Offer Period of May 30 to June 3, 2011.

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China and India are two of Asia's largest and fastest growing economies. According to IMF's World Economic Outlook, these two countries have been the main drivers of growth in the Asian region and are projected to grow further by 70% in the next five years. China's growth is driven by its export and manufacturing industries while India strongly benefits from its services and outsourcing industries. China and India are also two of the most preferred investment destinations by foreign investors, ranking first and third respectively in the A.T. Kearney FDI Confidence Index.

To give individual investors in the Philippines access to these fast booming economies and the wide rewards they can offer, Philam Life introduces "Asia's Best," an innovative investment and life insurance plan in one that is available between May 12 and June 13, 2011.

Philam Life President and CEO Trevor Bull says, "Philam Life continues to develop first-to-market and innovative financial solutions to provide Filipinos more opportunities to grow their finances, and make their money work harder and ultimately make their dreams happen."

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- Guaranteed Life insurance protection of 125% of initial investment amount or fund value, whichever is greater
- Available for clients aged 0-70
- One-time minimum payment of US$5,000

- Guaranteed issuance for clients aged 0-45 for an initial investment of up to US$50,000
- Only available through Philam Life Financial Planners

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Joel will also get guaranteed life insurance protection so he will have peace of mind that his family is protected in case of unforeseen events.

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Visit Tayo. Contact your Philam Life Financial Planner to know more about "Asia's Best" or call our customer hotline at (02) 526-2000.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of May 26, 2011

CURRENCIES

May 26, 2011 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	43.7500	1.0000	43.7500
Japan	Yen	0.5380	0.0123	81.3197
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6199	0.1285	7.7849
Singapore	Dollar	34.5000	0.7890	55.4557
Canada	Dollar	44.3000	1.0129	43.1921
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.4000	0.3293	44.3893
Australia	Dollar	45.1000	1.0312	42.4282
Bahrain	Dinar	116.0000	2.6530	1,714.06
Kuwait	Dinar	154.0000	3.5217	12.4201
Brunei	Dollar	34.6000	0.7911	55.3167
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0051	0.0001	0.3921
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	0.0320	13.6625
Qatar	Riyal	12.0000	0.2744	51.8457
UAE	Dirham	11.9000	0.2721	51.3554
Europe	Euro	63.0000	1.4406	43.7500
China	Yuan	6.7000	0.1532	6.7000
Switzerland	Franc	51.0000	1.1662	43.7500
Taiwan	Dollar	1.5000	0.0343	43.7500
Philippines	Peso	1.0000	0.0229	43.7500
New Zealand	Dollar	32.0000	0.7317	43.7500
Denmark	Krone	8.4000	0.1921	43.7500
Sweden	Krona	6.7000	0.1532	6.7000
Norway	Krone	7.7000	0.1761	43.7500

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

BSP sees May inflation at 4.5-5.5%

By Michelle V. Ramos

INFLATION MAY accelerate to more than 5 percent in May due to increases in transport fares and prices of school supplies.

This was according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which projected that the annual inflation rate in this would range from 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

In April, the inflation rate stood at 4.5 percent. The average for the first four months of the year was 4.2 percent.

The government has set a goal of keeping the full-year average within the range of 3 to 5 percent.

"The inflation forecast (for May) took into consideration the remaining rate-line adjustments, seasonal increases in the prices of school supplies, as well as the impact of fuel subsidies for jeepney and tricycle operators, among others," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a text message to reporters.

Despite the probable acceleration of inflation in May, the BSP is keeping to full-year projections of 3 to 5 percent.

Public transport fares have increased since the start of the year due to rising oil prices in the world market. The Philippines is vulnerable to oil price movements in the global market as it sources the bulk of its oil requirements from abroad.

The increase in global oil prices is blamed largely on the political unrest in some countries in the Middle East and North Africa, which are major oil-producing regions.

To address the complaints of jeepney operators and drivers, the government has agreed to grant fuel subsidies to them. The BSP said the move could lead to higher inflation.

Tetangco said oil prices in May were a bit more benign than in the previous months, although these remain volatile and need to be monitored carefully.

So far this year, the BSP has already raised its key policy rates twice. The first was in March, when the BSP raised the rates by 25 basis points. The second was earlier this month, when the rates were raised by another 25 basis points.

The two rate hikes have brought the BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates to 4.5 and 6.5 percent, respectively. Prior to the first hike, the rates were at their historic lows.

The increases in the policy rates, which influence commercial interest rates, were meant to ensure that the average inflation for the year would not exceed 5 percent. Higher interest rates are expected to encourage people to save more, tempering growth in demand and actual consumption. This is expected to ease pressures on the inflation.

CSI

From page B1

mental health, those waiting in the wings cannot be faulted for opting to move in the competition, or putting up their own business before they become too old to use their management skills or lose their retention value in the professional market. The corporate headhunters will only be too glad to call on them.

Besides, instant or later, there is bound to be generational differences between "senior citizen" executives and young, MBA-toting underlings on their management styles.

There is no assurance that the ideas learned by Generation Y members in graduate school would find an supporting on their formative 9 to 5 encounters who learned the ropes of the business from experience or books written by Adam Smith and his contemporaries.

Thus, experience in the best cases that specialized education or training is sometimes needed in certain areas of business to enable the company to keep up with developments in the market or meet the challenges of the competition.

Balance

While business stands to benefit from longer service by veteran employees, it cannot be denied that the regular infusion of new blood is essential to continued growth.

Age has also its limits as studies have chronologically-challenged employees may go to keep abreast with the developments in their business fields or be receptive to new ideas, youthful enthusiasm and innovative disposition cannot be easily duplicated.

By and large, the levels of intellectual competencies also, for this reason (down-to-earth) technological elasticity of a person are affected by the biological changes that accompany the aging process.

Getting the benefits of experience by mixed and mated employees without dampening the professional enthusiasm of younger employees, or profiting from their exuberance calls for a delicate balancing act by management.

Granting consultancy or advisory positions for semi-senior employees may be good in the short term, but not in the long run.

Unless the "baby sitter" is a major stockholder or closely related to the owner, no executive worth his salt would take lightly to any form of oversight supervision by a former superior or colleague.

In the corporate world, age versus youth is as sensitive and controversial an issue as gender representation on the executive rooms.

(For feedback, please write to opinion@inquirer.com.ph.)

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Secured Return Fund I 1.02000 1.02000
Secured Return Fund II 1.01000 1.01000
Protection Fund - Peso 1.07300 1.07300
Money Market Fund - Peso 1.09190 1.09200

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 27 May 2011

Mang INASAL
SULIT MEAL
P49

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Those looking for their dream home or the perfect vacation/investment hideaway will surely fall in love with the fabulous view, world-class and activated options for recreation and relaxation, offered at Splendido Taal Towers, a four 12-storey residential towers that are a joint venture by property owner JAKA & STA. LUCIA LAND, INC.

The Splendido Taal Residential, Golf and Country Club is an exclusive 250-hectare gated community located along the Tagaytay Ridge area, a mere 70 kilometers away from Metro Manila. It is a master planned community with the Greg Norman designed 18-hole championship golf course at Splendido Taal Golf Club as its anchor development.

Splendido Taal is located along the Tagaytay ridge and is just a short drive away from Manila. From the property one can get a breath-taking view of the Taal Volcano, the greens & fairways of the Greg Norman, par-72, all-weather championship golf course, the forests and Balayan Bay. It is just a short drive from the beautiful beaches at Nasugbu and Calatagan.

Splendido Taal Towers 1 offers limited number of 48 studio apartments, 88 one-bedroom apartments and 28 two-bedroom apartments. Condominium unit owners will be provided with assignable rights in the Splendido Taal Country Club, the clubhouse facilities of which will be the centerpiece of the proposed residential condominium development. Those who are into golf may avail of a 2-year playing rights at the Splendido Taal Golf Club.

As holders of assignee rights to the country club, unit owners will have full access to clubhouse amenities that include fine dining restaurants, a coffee shop and a bar, a game room and card room will be made available for those wishing to spend a lazy afternoon with family and friends.

For the more energetically inclined, one can avail of the various sports and recreational facilities of the clubhouse that include covered courts for tennis, basketball, volleyball, squash, state-of-the-art bowling center, gym and badminton. An outdoor swimming pool will likewise be made available for the residents and their guests.

For those wishing the comfort in rest and relaxation, a spa and massage facilities will likewise be made available at the Splendido Taal Country Club.

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BAGUIO CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bagulo Central University (BCU), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Supply and delivery of 60 units, 8.0 Litre Portable Toilet Bowls, (as BSP technical specifications)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P4,500,000.00
Delivery Period	Within sixty (60) calendar days upon receipt of a copy of the Notice to Proceed Order

Prospective bidders should have established a retail tax (3) certain company experience and completed from 1/2009 to present with an aggregate amount of at least 50% of the ABC; one of which costs at least 25% of the ABC. The Eligibility Check, Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference (if), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions/guidelines of Republic Act No. 9184 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 27 May 2011 (from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M. only) Procurement Office Room 213, 2nd Floor, Fine Arts Building Dr. Alfredo Lemor P. Dumpit Sr. Avenue, Manila, Manila Tel. No. 5-552-9677 loc no. 53(202)
2. Pre-bid Conference	13 June 2011, 2:00 P.M. (MNL)
3. Opening of Bids	1 July 2011 / 9:00 A.M. (MNL)
4. Bid Evaluation	Three days as in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184
5. Post-qualification	3-5-6
6. Notice of Award	

The TOR and Checklist of Requirements for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP Website (www.bsp.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address given above upon presentation of the PhilGEPS Supplier's Order Form and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to non-persons or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure, or to cancel the contract, to waive the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor defects or formality and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the agency.

Dpt. ANTONIO A. GRACERA
Vice Chairman

BTVA May 27, 2011

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Competitor with a Global Mindset and a Passion Heart

INVITATION TO BID FOR Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) lot Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Ticket-in Ticket Out (TITO) software
PB No. 03-13-2011 (GS-8200066)

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is leading and inviting bidders to an Invitation to Bid for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) lot Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Ticket-in Ticket Out (TITO) software.

Implementing Agency	PAGCOR
Source of Funds	PAGCOR's source of funds for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) lot Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Ticket-in Ticket Out (TITO) software is from the Corporate Budget.
Conditions	1. PAGCOR's bidder and its bidder has enough of funds to pursue its Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) lot Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Ticket-in Ticket Out (TITO) software. 2. PAGCOR's bidder is not in default under any contract between the Philippine Government and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), its Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Franchisees and Licensees. 3. PAGCOR's bidder or his/her representative has not been convicted of any crime or violation of any government contract within the past five (5) years before the date of this Invitation to Bid. 4. PAGCOR's bidder has the capability and experience to undertake the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) lot Slot Machine Online System with Ticketing System – Ticket-in Ticket Out (TITO) software. 5. PAGCOR's bidder must submit the following documents: Valid Mayor's/Business Permit, Valid Tax Clearance, Valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate, Valid Omnibus Sworn Statement, Audited Financial Statements stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions for the preceding calendar year, and Income Tax Return for the preceding calendar year.
Approved Budget	TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THE CONTRACT (INCLUSIVE OF ALL TAXES): PHILIPPINE PESOS ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONLY (PHP178,500,000.00)
Bidding Documents	Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Vice Chairman for Procurement, Management Services Department (MSD), 2nd Floor, PAGCOR Main Office Building, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City.

Activities	Schedule
Publication	May 27, 2011 (Friday)
Pre-Bid Conference	June 3, 2011 (Friday)
Deadline of Bid Opening of Bids	June 17, 2011 (Friday)

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Vice Chairman for Procurement, Management Services Department (MSD), 2nd Floor, PAGCOR Main Office Building, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City.

Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon presentation of the Official Receipt issued by the Cashier's Office, 2nd Floor, PAGCOR Main Office Building, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) only, non-refundable.

Bidders shall submit their bids through the Bidding Documents duly filled out and signed by the authorized representative of the bidder, in a sealed envelope, on the date and time specified above at the Office of the Vice Chairman for Procurement, Management Services Department (MSD), 2nd Floor, PAGCOR Main Office Building, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City. Bidding Documents will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please call the Procurement Management Services Department (MSD) at telephone no. 8521-1000 loc. 1515.

Dpt. ALBERTO D. VILLARIN
Vice Chairman

PAGCOR May 27, 2011

CAMARINES SUR WATER DISTRICT
BAC SECRETARIAT

INVITATION TO BID

The CAMARINES SUR WATER DISTRICT, a government owned and controlled corporation, intends to apply the following sums/s being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the Projects listed below:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bidding Documents Cost	Time within Completion
Construction / Rehabilitation / Improvement of Deep Well (DW)	P 3,000,000.00	June 01, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.	120 DC
Construction of Deep Well (DW) and Overhead Reservoir (OHR) with Chlorine Gas Disinfection System	P 4,000,000.00	June 01, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.	120 DC

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Bids Secretariat and purchase the complete Bidding Documents from the address given above upon presentation of the PhilGEPS Supplier's Order Form and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00.

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Dpt. ALBERTO D. VILLARIN
BAC Chairman

CSWD May 27, 2011

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OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

The bereaved wife, **Mrs. Teresita B. Mendoza**
children, children-in-law and grandchildren of

COMM. PEDRO C. MENDOZA, JR.

(November 11, 1952 – May 17, 2011)

wish to convey our deepest appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who spent precious time with us, sent us flowers, mass cards, gave donations, offered Masses & prayers, attended the funeral mass or expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

He will live in our hearts knowing that he has touched and inspired so many lives.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

Teresita Dio Jesalva

Requires Obituaries
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

Globe broadband powers Gawad Kalinga Hope Ball videoconference

GAWAD KALINGA partnered with Globe Telecom for the GK Hope Ball held in Las Vegas, USA, where Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair Jejomar Binay was the guest of honor. Globe provided high-speed broadband connection that allowed live video conference, ing between guests at the GK Hope Ball to the United States and the GK communities in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, the beneficiary of the Las Vegas ball.

Through the video conference, underprivileged families in Caloocan were able to witness the ceremony of over P650,000 in cash that will be used to build 150 homes in the GK USA Hope Village in Bagong Silang, Caloocan. At the same time, donors and patrons of GK in the USA witnessed 30 families receiving keys to their new homes in the GK Village.

Binay lauded GK for its initiatives to address the issue of shelter in the Philippines, and for getting private individuals and corporations like Globe Telecom to lend a helping hand to the national government. The Vice President also extended help to provide free inbound opportunities to residents of GK Bagong Silang.

Globe has made continuous improvements to its broadband network, further expanding the coverage of its 4th generation (4G) technologies. As of the country's 4G provider, Globe boasts of the largest 4G network in the country and one of the largest WiMAX deployments in Southeast Asia. Globe has already made 4G available in over 1,500 sites in nearly 60 provinces across the Philippines, covering 365 cities, including Manila, Caloocan, Cebu, Antipolo, Boracay, Puerto Princesa, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Zamboanga.

SHELL SUPPORTS RIDE FOR LIGHT 2011

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. (Shell) recently held a pre-ride for Ride Light 2011, an international advocacy bring to light for talent-Bagan through pedal-powered energy by using bicycles. 3 London trainers across the Philippines. Called by Shell's Power and powered by Electricite Generale Philippines, the pre-ride is the 1st of Shell's recent fuel-saver campaigning social and campaigning social and campaigning social and

THE REAL COST OF CAR CARE.

For many people, having a car these days is a necessity. We use our cars to take us to work, or maybe the kids to school, carry the groceries, and even take us to out-of-town vacations. A car repairs not having to run after a never-ending process of trying to score bonus, or spend way into the 'Minus' during Black Friday, or replacing your tires with a cool driver to the mall.

But with the rising prices of fuel and the costs of spare parts and "one-car, car ownership requires a certain degree of a burden rather than a convenience. And if you're one of the thousands of Subaru owners subscribing to the saying, it's wise to just ignore the problems cars, that was way, have and even fuel when driving your Car. And sometimes, it seems more "practical" to delay both our car and repairs and even go to the unscheduled mechanic just to save a little money. But the fact remains: "negligence of car maintenance is never good."

Negligence is never practical.

If we don't take care of the small problems now, we could find ourselves in bigger trouble like:

A puddle of fluid under your car could mean oil is starting to leak and spending it could lead to lack of fuel in the engine. Or it was don't replace old engine oil and oil filters, motor could build up, resulting to high fuel consumption and even engine overheating. And ultimately, it could lead to many serious damage to several engine components, which might mean engine overhaul. For a problem that could've been solved if you chose to ignore them, the resulting damage might be too overwhelming on your budget.

So you hear squeaks and squeals each time you step on the brakes? That's your car telling you that the brake Pads are worn out. Don't your car drift to the side or can you feel a little wobble when you drive? That could be a worn out Ball Joint, or your tires need balancing or your Shock and Struts need replacing. If you don't take these symptoms checked, your car's response will become worrisome and may lead to serious road accidents and even injury. When you take care of your car, all your car's passengers, including yourself, are kept safe from harm.

Being practical doesn't mean not spending and investing that you can do without some sometimes. Like if your aircon starts acting up, you don't have to drive around in a hot, sweaty mode, your car. If overheated, it could affect the whole A/C system and worse still, it may compromise other components under the hood like the radiator. It may be solved by simply replacing the A/C belt or refilling the Freon. Your car is something you shouldn't skimp on. Instead of spending a few thousands of pesos for a minor maintenance, you might end up spending 5 to 6 times more for bigger repairs.

Car Care is Easy

The good news is that you don't have to deal with these serious issues while owning a car if you pay attention to your car and address them as soon as you encounter them. And the better news is that car care is easy and Hyundai is here to help you out.

1. **Check your car regularly.** Check the level of your car fluids: Engine Oil, Brake Fluid, AT / MT Fluid, Power Steering Fluid, and Radiator water or Coolant. Refer to the owner's manual to find out where to check the levels. Check your tire treads and tire pressure.
2. **Keep your car clean.** Wash your car as often as possible to avoid dirt build-up that could lead to rusting. Dust can also lead to paint scratches and dullness. A clean car is a happy car.
3. **Bring your car for a check-up during Hyundai's Car Wellness Month.** From May 23 to July 15, 2011, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai in the Philippines, will invite you with your vehicle's maintenance and care needs. From 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Mondays to Saturdays, at 29 participant Hyundai dealers nationwide, get a FREE 21-point vehicle check-up and avail of Hyundai's Preventive Maintenance Services (PMS) packages.

Get tempting deals on oil filters, change oil filter and exclusive Hyundai Genuine Motor Oils (HGMO) for your car's age or diesel engine's needs and specifications:

Mineral Motor Oil - With Hyundai's Grade 15AE1 of 20W-50 for gas engines and 15W-40 for diesel engines, this oil helps provide smoother and quieter engine running and enhances engine performance and efficiency by reducing friction as it lowers overall gas consumption.

Semi-Synthetic Motor Oil - Engineered for gas and diesel engines, with a viscosity grade 15AE1 of 20W-50, Semi-Synthetic takes engine care to the next level of enhanced performance and efficiency with exceptional cleaning properties and better protection.

Fully-Synthetic Motor Oil - Maximizing the performance of Hyundai engines, Fully-Synthetic Motor Oil engineers fuel economy guarantees superior performance even in extreme driving and weather conditions, lowers oil evaporation and emissions. It also helps in extending engine life with enhanced engine protection against oil wear and sludge build-up.

Even out-of-warranty Hyundai cars are special when with Accredit that highlights the importance of proper car care maintenance through Hyundai's Best Car C.A.R.E. or Certified, Advanced, Reliable, Efficient and quality service.

Hyundai's Car Wellness also offers additional packages that include inspection and replacement of specific parts on the suspension, brake, A/C, and belt systems for the utmost performance and maximum protection of your vehicle. And with every purchase, Hyundai treats your car to a FREE premium body wash, interior vacuum cleaning, and tire black, so that your vehicle won't just run smoothly but look sleek, as well!

4. **Sign up with the One Hyundai Club.** Register for FREE membership and avail of exclusives and deals with One Hyundai Club (OHC), the first membership-based car loyalty program in the country. Avail of instant enrollment to the OHC 24/7 roadside assistance service for free! Receive exclusive health perks for a free consultation, laboratory tests, and medicines! Enjoy discounts on parts and labor for accessories, Genuine Hyundai parts, and maintenance. Earned points can be redeemed for premium Hyundai Brand Collection merchandise (i.e., an array of authentic, limited-edition Hyundai collectibles) and gift items from the One Hyundai Lifestyle Rewards Bureau.

With OHC, you automatically get 24/7 Roadside Assistance Extension, including emergency towing, minor services, preventive repairs, accident assistance, and retrieval of authorized Hyundai purchase and service centers. Plus, OHC offers special Lifestyle Perks and benefits like free-road discounts and packages from partner establishments, Shopping discounts and privileges, Travel kit benefits and flavors. And members are entitled to Special EIP Access to exclusive Hyundai events like car launches, motor shows, and test drives. Plus, be advantaged to hassle-free payment of your service transactions by using the Hyundai MasterCard – one of the premium privileges of being a One Hyundai Club member.

We know of promotions is worth your bank account in car repairs. And with Hyundai by your side, car care is easier and even comes with a trusty full of perks and privileges. So do the practical and smart thing. Drop by at any authorized Hyundai dealer this Hyundai Wellness Month and let Hyundai take care of you and your car.

HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

Start your car on a healthy regimen.

2011 Hyundai Car Wellness

Remember, what you put in your car is what you get out of it. Hyundai original parts and genuine motor oil will keep your Hyundai car running smoothly, enhancing its performance and fuel efficiency, and even help maintain a higher resale value.

From May 23 to July 15, 2011, have a free 21-point vehicle check-up and avail any of these Preventive Maintenance Services (PMS) and Best Car Care packages at participating Hyundai dealerships:

PMS 1: Change Oil using HG Mineral Oil • PMS 2: Semi-Synthetic • PMS 3: Fully Synthetic • PMS 4: Out-of-Warranty

And get:
- 25% off on Change Oil Labor
- 10% off on Oil Filter
- One Hyundai Club (OHC) Membership (for non-members)
- OHC Points from accumulated parts purchased
- Exclusive Hyundai Giveaways

Plus! Avail of these additional packages:

Suspension Package	Brake Package	A/C Package	Belt Package
20% off on the ff parts:	10% off on the ff labor and parts:	10% off on the ff labor and parts:	20% off on the ff parts:
Shock Absorber	Brake Check-up	A/C Cleaning	Timing Belt – Valve
Stabilizer Link	Brake Shoes	A/C Filter	A/C Belt
Tie Rod End	Brake Pads		P/S Belt
Ball Joint			

(2 Package Limit with P500 Service Body Wash, Interior Vacuum Cleaning and Tire Black)

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Per 251-HCB Permit No. 4204 Series of 2011.

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- Pampanga: (045) 961-1100, (045) 961-1101
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- Santiago City: (078) 682-2777, (078) 682-4888

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Millennium Challenge grant takes effect

$434M to be used for poverty reduction

By Reussel W. Domingo

FINANCE SECRETARY Cesar V. Purisima yesterday said a $434-million grant from US-funded Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) has taken effect, which kicks off the implementation of three major projects meant to help reduce poverty in the country.

Purisima, who is also vice chair of the Millennium Challenge Account Philippines (MCAP), said the grant's activities was advanced on schedule.

The followed Malacañang's completion of the grant agreement conditions relating to project preparation and documentation, which involved the Department of Finance (DOF) and Department of Justice as well as other implementing agencies.

Tasked to implement the grant agreement are the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the DOF's Revenue Integrity Protection Service.

Purisima added that MCAP, the Philippine entity responsible for managing the grant, is now fully staffed and established to implement the agreement that was signed last September which runs for five years.

This "shows the Aquino administration's strong resolve to undertake infrastructure projects that promote sustainable economic growth and to help reduce poverty across all regions of the country in the soonest time possible," he said.

This milestone "is only a first step along a path with many challenges along the way. But I am confident that, after five years, the Philippines will be even a stronger and more prosperous country to invest in," he added.

The grant's objective include a $54.3-million revenue administration reform project which is meant to help raise tax revenues and collect tax revenues and compliance through reforms in the BIR, and modernization of the revenue collection system.

The grant also provides funding for the $5.26-million Kalahi-Bing Labrat sa Kalahi-agnas Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, which is meant to improve community-level infrastructure and social services for the poor, and strengthen the capacity of local communities address poverty.

A third component is the $314.44-million secondary national roads development project which is expected to enhance transportation cost through the rehabilitation of an existing 320-kilometer road segment in Samar.

Hyundai, East West Bank in credit card tie up

By Doris C. Dumlao and Amy R. Remo

GOTHONG-LED East West Bank has teamed up with the local distributor of Hyundai to offer a credit card that grants perks for buyers of the fast-growing Korean car brand.

Under the partnership launched Wednesday night, a premium Hyundai motoring credit card called "Hyundai Elantra Card" will be issued by East West Bank to an initial 5,000 customers to members of One Hyundai Club, the first distributor-based car loyalty program in the country.

About 5,000 Hyundai customers had been pre-selected for the first batch of this co-branded credit card. Its Brian Agunda, president of Philippine Hyundai distributor Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari) told reporters.

East West president Antonio Moncapa said the partnership was announced by the last time Hyundai was the most popular brand among car buyers who have existing consumer loans with the bank.

With this Hyundai MasterCard, cardholders instantly get a 3-percent rebate on fuel purchases at any gasoline station nationwide as well as a 0.5-percent rebate on other retail purchases from any merchant establishment. A rebate of as much as P1,000 is earned on every statement per month. Rebates shall be redeemed at Hyundai roadstores and can be used to pay for services, purchase and accessories at all authorized Hyundai dealerships.

The card also offers exclusive discounts at all authorized Hyundai dealerships. Rewards shall expire a 12-percent discount on preventive maintenance services – including purchases of parts and labor and collision accessories. It also comes with 24/7 roadside assistance and travel assistance. There are on top of year-round special discounts and privileges from partner merchants – from dining, shopping, travel, to health and fitness.

East West – which became a more significant player in consumer banking in 2009 when it acquired the local consumer finance units of ABN – is now the fifth biggest credit card issuer in the country with about 700,000 active cards. It is the sixth biggest in terms of credit card receivables.

The bank also obtained approval from the Monetary Board on Wednesday to upgrade its operations to a universal bank from a regular commercial bank, subject to conditions related to an interest payable ceiling. "We need to sell shares and be publicly owned, then be listed within three years," Moncapa said.

Moncapa said the bank was expecting to sustain high growth in consumer lending, assuming favorable conditions in auto and mortgage lending. "If we don't grow by more than 20 percent, we will be very sad," he said.

HARI, the official distributor of Hyundai automobiles in the country, expects also volume to grow by at least 20 percent this year after selling 10,000 units last year.

Having been cited in the local automotive industry and three named Hyundai's Asia-Pacific Distributor of the Year in less than a decade of operations, HARI has a 134-branch dealer network and a roster of popular vehicles, including the revised Sonata, Tucson, Santa Fe, Genesis Coupe, i20, Elantra, Accent and Sonata.

Ongpin hints of new investments

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GROUP of businessman Roberto V. Ongpin is discussing from all of its telecommunications assets to raise money for a venture into a broad-new industry, which promises higher earnings for the company.

At the annual shareholders' meeting of the Ongpin group's telecom unit, ISM Communications Corp., the company's board approved the sale of its entire holdings in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI) and its recent participation Systems Gmbh).

The group's shares in both companies have a book value or around P2.4 billion.

ONGPIN

"The new ventures will be able to bring the ability of a better return. The cash will go to an enterprise that we feel very strongly will deliver at least by returns," ISM president Eric Recto told stockholders.

In a separate interview, company chairman said the company had a lot of cash that could be deployed to better performing industries.

However, Ongpin declined to identify what industry the company was looking at and to what amount the proposed plans to invest in it.

"We are in the middle of negotiations but once signed, we will not invest in an industry unless it is profitable," he said. "We want to deploy our cash in the most profitable way possible," he said.

Earlier, ISM sold its 40-percent stake in ETPI—enough for a controlling stake in the company—to the group of diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC), which is also working on a telecom venture.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

A very likeable ice cream TV commercial

Text and photos by Roger Pe
Lion Reader

THERE ARE now more than 500 million active users on Facebook worldwide, 50 percent of whom log in on any given day. An average user has 130 friends and spends over 700 billion aggregate minutes per month surfing.

These people interact with over 900 million objects (pages, groups, events, etc.) and more than 30 billion pieces of content (web links, news stories, blog posts, notes, photo albums, etc.) are shared each month.

Wait, there is also a "like" button that you can click under each every single post to signify that you are pleased with what you see. You can make a comment or totally ignore it.

With this brand, or more specifically ad units, however, the "like" button has reached a sizable number and has even grown a Fan Page.

As in other fan pages that devote banners or celebrities purportedly put up to jack up membership, Eyeworx handlers did it without even lifting a finger. The first, mostly teens, did it.

Awareness, copy lines notwithstanding, consistently, however, overall likability—this campaign created by Lowe and Partners for Comerie Grolier, is clear. Made your favorite, too.

What sets you do with P500? The agency's "Scrap Ng 20 Ka..." and "Tawag ng Tungkulin" in 2006 or affordability and ease platform. The series included "Hunter"-"Barbie" and "Sorcerer".

The latest is "Tawadan," showing a young guy on vacation in Baguio rummaging through an "okay-okay" shop for a sweetheart. As in previous commercials, the ad demonstrates what you can't do with 20 bucks nowadays but you can with it—hilarious, yummy and flavorful. Centavos.

The good news is, it is not borrowed from an international campaign. In an advertising landscape that keeps on changing and local ad agencies are marginalized because of budget shifts to mother networks and regional campaigns.

"We're proud of our work for Centavos and even more so that some of our agency's work has gone regional," says Creative Director Ali Aquino whose team has focused on the brand for a couple of years now.

The campaign is a breath of fresh air, a product of the heart like its logo. You can see how sprinkled all over it by a team who knows how to connect with people and create originated. Naglos.

Aquino, whose creative management style includes allowing her underlings to fly, believes in collaborative effort. "I believe every new fun idea worth looking into," she says with a firm tone.

Aquino and her team squeeze their creative minds in the last drop, regularly churning out a hole number of ideas, and not settling for less. "We make sure that we are ready and have a bounty of options for clients to select from, whether for traditional, new and social media," she says.

Her personally energetic art director John Paluhan, young and most likely a creative director material, couldn't agree more. "We've probably conceptualized more than 50 storylines, brainstorming found on customer insights. The group tool—Eyeworx, however, the more the merrier anybody who can help make the idea is better shape, for us she is definitely in."

Paluhan says.

"Campaign first used the slogan 'Sa ang Centavos ka na lang?' ("Just have a Centavos instead"), and "Hanggang saan aabot ang 20 pesos mo?" ("How far will your 20 pesos take you?"). Until today, the latest proves just as strong as others we first met Eyeworx's account manager Mel Yanna says.

Before it was marketed in the country, Centavos enjoyed a successful advertising campaign in Italy using a fantastic episodic on sing "O Sole Mio" in many versions and locales throughout Europe.

The campaign ran for its years (1980-1990), with its theme recycled back in 2006 and production, delivery, office workers, even members you're in. Locally singing the song. Since then, the ice cream has become one of the most popular ice cream brands in the UK & Ireland.

A cross full of delights, an ice cream that goes back in a series of highly testified TV commercials. Most likely, you'll give it a lot of check marks. Shall we check the "like" button, now?

LOWE and Partners' Comerie Bars shooting it up: Mel Yanna, account manager John Paluhan, art director and Ali Aquino, creative director

Local gourmet cheeses from cows and goats, anyone?

By Armelle S. Tayao

ROBERTO Puentespina Jr., Olive Puentespina and Kevin Carmona

PACHAUSO Pesto

SILVER Pepato

PROVENCE PEARL Chevre, Aged Pepato, Blue Pepato—cheese with such sophisticated names rarely have come from Europe, right?

Think again.

These are hand creations handmade in Davao City by cheesemaker Olive Puentespina, who has been producing gourmet artisan cheese for the past six years from cow and goat milk. They are sold under the brand Malagos Cheese, as Puentespina is part of the Puentespina clan who runs Malagos Farmhouse and Make gue Garden Resort, a 12-hectare inland resort, also in Davao.

It was nothing to the farm's guests—which Puentespina and her husband, Roberto Puentespina Jr., began in 2004—that sparked her idea to produce cheese. An animal science major from UP Los Baños (where she met Roberto Jr.), she went on to have some profit from their goats.

"I guess my animal science background linked in, and I wanted a 'symbiotic' relationship with the goats," says Puentespina during a lunch treat at Shakey's in Makati City, which serves certain dishes with Malagos Cheese. "We took care of them; I wanted them to give some

QUEIJO Beatrice from cow's milk

thing back."

Through a former colleague at the Dairy Training and Research Institute (DTRI) in UP-LB, Puentespina acquired the necessary cheese-making skills. "I hadn't learned this in college; I had a midget-industry processing, but that was it," she says.

Puentespina's next step, after months of perfecting her recipes, was to put her products out in the market. She met Karin Carmona, managing director of Pancake Inn, who is now in charge of distributing Malagos Cheese.

"Karin asked me, 'Is it OK if we have your cheese tasted [by different chefs], and are you willing to make changes or improvements based on the comments?'" recalls Puentespina. "I said, 'sure,' and that's how we started [selling cheese]."

In 2008, the Cheese Club of the Philippines took notice of Puentespina's feta, and awarded it Cheese of the Month in September. Malagos Cheese is now distributed nationwide in different delis, restaurants, hotels and retail outlets like Rustan Ice Gourmet, The Market and Wine Depot.

Malagos Cheese products' prices range from P850 (P1,000 per kilo for the fresh kesong puti) to P1,000 (goat's milk and Brown). The aged variety, like Blue Pepato (cow's milk cheese, mildly aged and with whole green pepper corn) or Queijo (a soft, semi-aged cow's milk cheese) sells for around P1,200 per kilo.

Philippine Airlines is also a client. Puentespina supplies them with Blue Pepato and Fresh Cheese for its Business Class. Fresh goat's milk cheese, with dried mango, is an exclusive product for PAL.

"The customers used to be limited to the more adventurous [ones], but this has changed dramatically now," the past few years," says Carmona. "More and more Filipinos have become cheese connoisseurs, and are so appreciative of [Puentespina's] cheese."

Puentespina produces all of her 16 cheese varieties in her cheese room in Davao. "Every kesong puti is through my hands," she says, who has three assistants working with her, curing the curd, draining the whey, forming the cheese. A small kitchen operation, and Puentespina runs around P10,000.

Her husband, a veterinarian and a UP-LB graduate as well, is in charge of taking care of their goats and cows. "[Roberto] takes care of herd health. We can't use antibiotics and other medications, since those might affect the milk," says Puentespina. "A source of good and constant milk is primary; you can't make good cheese from bad milk."

Despite Malagos Cheese's growing popularity—Carmona says European customers have in the country have become big fans—Puentespina is in no hurry to expand the business. "In the restaurant market, [for] the is "a wife and mother first," says Puentespina, who has three kids still studying in elementary and high school: Roberto II, Ingrid and Sophia. "My business will grow with it. I would [rather] focus on quality and reliability."

Besides, Puentespina is quite content with how things, who are becoming more explorative when it comes to food, are spending their pesos on more sophisticated cheeses, but on something homegrown. "In that way, I am already helping the country."

'Why can't I use retail distribution when I'm in direct selling?'

Dr. Neil Roberto
& Andy Roberto

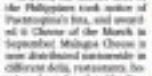
Q: HOW do direct selling of herbal supplements to infant and juice items. We have been selling through multi-level well. We're thinking of distributing via supermarkets, convenience shops, and health stores. But our direct sales agents were literally up in arms when we hinted at it in one of our weekly sales meetings. One (literally) supervisor also told us it's not good for them to have "dual distributorships" for our products. But how come FERN-C is doing well in dual distribution?

Please help us think this through and tell us what's a better way to present the idea to our sales agents.

A: We want to start with a quick correction. Fern-C is a product and one of the brands of the multi-level marketing company you're referring to. Nera is the company name. It stands for Filipino Entrepreneurs & Business Network. FERN promotes "family branding" as we mean we focus on other brands like FERN-Slim, FERN-Coffee and so on. These are in addition to FERN-C, a non-acidic vitamin C supplement, which is FERN's largest revenue generator—over a phenomenal billion peso brand.

And now to your question. You should have guessed that your sales agents would object. And because you didn't prepare them for the change, even through the proper way to present the idea, they objected violently.

Preparation and anticipation is key. You now know what to anticipate. But from the questions you asked, you don't know yet what exactly to prepare for or you're not sure. Well, prepare for how to effectively handle your sales agents' objections so that you will know how to reverse the assumed negative consequences of your going dual distributorship. Your sales agents are assuming that if you also distribute your supplements line in retail stores like supermarkets, convenience stores, and health shops, their sales reward will suffer or else at least slow down for eventually fall.



MARKETING-Rx

First of all, the distinction between direct selling on the one hand, and retail distributing on the other, is a hugely artificial differentiation. Direct selling is just another form of retail marketing—if you see retail marketing as selling direct to your buying consumers. If you think about it, from the shopper perspective, they are no different from distributing your product via supermarkets, convenience stores, health shops, and other retailers.

Next, consider the way Retail Marketing frames the buying consumer's behavior as taking place here. Who is that buying consumer? Obviously to the consumer who comes to buy your supplement in either tablet or juice form. Now, that very same consumer (we choose to buy from a supermarket, a convenience store, a health shop or from a sales agent of yours. In most cases, that consumer must have bought from 1, 2, 3 or from all 4 of these sources.

Let's appreciate this in the setting of a more familiar example. Suppose you want to drink Coke? If you happened to be in the office and the urge to drink Coke occurs during a snack break, you probably won't go to the supermarket to get your Coke but instead go to the office canteen, or the vending machine, or a nearby sari-sari, or "tindera" to get your Coke or to munch or lunch meals at your office. But during the weekend, when family bonding time and you include Coke in your shopping list as you leave for the supermarket, there you will buy your Coke pack or case in the supermarket.

Habituation

So, depending on the purchase and consumption setting, the same buying consumer will participate in different purchase segments. And that's typical of most purchase segmentation of the market. Therefore, it logically follows that your multi-ing your supplement available at the traditional retail outlets in addition to your direct selling agents is making your supplement available at places where your buying consumers may not be reached by you. It also effectively creates more buying occasions for your product and over time "habituates" your consumers with your supplement brand. Remember that it is habituation that leads consumers to frequent purchase and therefore loyalty. That's loyalty to your brand and product and NOT to the distribution outlets.

To assure your sales agents that your going retail will not kill the purchase segment which your direct selling distribution system serves and will continue to serve. As a matter of fact, the consumer habituation leading to more frequent buying will enhance this purchase segment's market size. And don't worry about not selling to your direct sales agents' mutual money making interest.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at Marketing-Rx@philstar.net or drneil_marketing-rx@gmail.com. Send Mail

Aussie firms keen on oil and gas sector

The dying antismuggling bill

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THE FIGHT against smuggling is lost on a daily basis. If any imported goods are subject to either outright or technical (i.e., tax devaluation, misclassification and misdeclaration) smuggling, the estimated annual smuggling amounts to P650 billion, with a government revenue loss of more than P300 billion. It is therefore imperative that the antismuggling bill be prioritized over the proposed Customs and Tariff Modernization Act (CTMA).

AGRIWATCH

Reward smuggling

Already, the supposed crime smuggling from China has started. Last May 25, an agriculture and Fisheries 2015 follow-up meeting was convened by Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (Congrip) co-chairs Sen. Francis Escudero and Rep. Mark Mendoza, and private sector agriculture and fisheries leaders. Rudolfo Ebdane, an Alyansa Agrikultura leader, reported that smuggled onions are again flooding the Divisoria market. He desperately need a law to stop all this.

Today, there are two such proposed laws to stop smuggling. The bill is downed even, plainly to address this problem, while the CTMA addresses many issues, one of them is purportedly to stop smuggling.

But after several CTMA congressional hearings where antismuggling advocates proposed that 800 provisions be included in the CTMA, those provisions were rejected.

Differences

Below are three critical differences between the two bills which the Alyansa has prioritized.

The ASB recommends the creation of a government-private sector oversight body to ensure transparency and better governance. This duplicates the very successful Cabinet Oversight Committee on Smuggling (Cocos) which was abolished after they caught "big fish." The Alyansa Agrikultura and the Federation of Philippine Industries participated actively in the Cocos meetings, which were every two hours for three months.

Sixty offices, the cause of the BOC against the alleged smugglers were too finely to prosper. The ASB contains a provision to strengthen the antismuggling cause through the participation of private sector lawyers.

Much of the smuggling today is done through undervaluation. ASB has a provision that adopts measures compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO) that stops the abuse of this "transaction value" mechanism to justify undervalued imports.

The other seven differences were identified by Mario Jose Soriano, Alyansa Agrikultura Executive Director and co-author and chairman of Philippine Industries Multinational Trade desk.

The ASB automatically increases fines and penalties (i.e., P20 00 million and reclusion perpetua for unlawful acts and attempted attempt if the value exceeds P50 million) to smaller increases in the CTMA (i.e., P100-500 thousand and up to 12 years for unlawful importation if the value exceeds P1 million).

• It strengthens controls over DMA and over the modes of disposition of seized goods and other goods under Customs custody in CTMA which already expire existing FOI provisions.

• It provides for the linkage of the computer systems of the BOC and the BIR to greatly enhance the conduct of tax and importation audits to assist the CTMA.

It tightens the accreditation process to weed out fly-by-night operators and "tax payers for hire" schemes in terms for CTMA.

• It provides for internal audit mechanisms on top of external audit of the Commission on Audit review team for CTMA.

• It enhances risk analysis by broadening transparency to customs transactions.

The CTMA institutionalizes the warning shot comes by Congress of the tariff setting powers to the Executive branch, reforms the Constitution grants such powers exclusively to Congress. The Committee mostly allows a limited delegation by Congress to the President."

Why the rush

At the Senate hearings, the Alyansa agreed to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), which facilitates importation, provided that the times in five-year timeline allowed by RKC for transition measures be implemented. If not, the RKC would seriously make smuggling worse.

This timeline is not provided for in the CTMA. It only 72 percent out of the 176 country members of the World Customs Organization have acceded to the RKC, why the rush to implement all the RKC provisions immediately? There is something suspicious to this, specially since the CTMA adopts all the RKC provisions and rejects the most important ASB provisions.

Recommendation

The ASB must be prioritized over the CTMA. If the CTMA has to be passed first, then all the important ASB provisions must be incorporated into the CTMA before its passage. In addition, the three- to five-year implementation timeline for the critical RKC provisions must be specified. If not, smuggling may not only continue but also progress.

The Senate of Representatives must be the champions of the smuggling victims in the current 15th Congress, as it was in the two previous Congresses when they passed the ASB. Many of the smuggling victims have vowed to reject the rule of such representatives in this critical issue to find out who are actually on their side.

(The author is chair of Agrimanis and former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects. For inquiries, email agriwatch.philippines.com or telephone 920-8222/123

Philippine Energy Contracting Round 4 to be held on June 30

By Amy R. Remo

AT LEAST 40 prominent Australian oil and gas exploration companies have expressed strong interest in investing in the Philippine upstream oil and gas industry, a favorable start for the government-led International roadshow for the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR 4).

Those companies included Shell, Apache, Chevron, AWE International, Black Stone, Caltharp, Cue Energy Resources, Nobel Australia, Innox, Strait Energy, Ultra Energy, Woodside, Anglican Resources PLC and Top Oil, according to Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr.

"The investor interest is overwhelming and everybody is clearly committed to the development of the GOE technical data for their immediate evaluation. We were pleasantly surprised with the turnout despite the short notice," Layug noted.

"This is a validation of the continuing international confidence in the Aquino administration. We hope this will result in more oil and gas discoveries within Philippine territory. It serves as an appropriate time, especially with the current high oil price environment," added Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

The roadshow in Australia, which runs held on May 23, was a kickoff event to promote the official launch on June 30 of PECR 4. The DOE will also conduct roadshows in Singapore, Houston and London. This early many investors have already registered for the Singapore and London presentations and are requesting information on the blocks to be offered, Layug said.

PECR 4 forms part of President Aquino's long-term plans to address the Philippines' need for oil and gas exploration and development. Under this program, the Department of Energy will determine the remaining holders based on specific technical, legal and financial criteria, after which the President of the Philippines will have to award the service contracts.

As many as 15 contracts for the exploration, development and production of prospective oil and gas areas may be auctioned off. These areas span across 532 million hectares of land in Cagayan, Cotabato, Davao, Eastern Palawan, Mindoro-Cuyo Basin, East Palawan and Catanduanes.

Northwest Palawan is home to the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project, the largest and most successful natural gas industrial project in Philippine history.

The government started to develop these new areas with the initial discovery for oil estimated at 300,000 barrels per day. The aim of new companies that will resume into exploration and development of the areas is to reduce the country's dependence on imported petroleum products, he said.

Alphaland embarking on upscale projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

ALPHALAND CORP., a joint venture between the group of former Prime Minister Roberto Ongpin and Hastali Land Solutions, is investing more than P16 billion in the next eight to 10 years to develop upscale property projects.

The company describes its make a follow-on public offering of shares to comply with the 10 percent minimum public ownership requirement by the Philippine Stock Exchange by November this year but only if market conditions are favorable, company officials said yesterday.

At present, less than 1 percent of Alphaland shares is held and traded by the public.

If every listed company that fails to follow the PSE requirement penalties would sell shares just to meet the November deadline, Ongpin said it wasn't be good for the market.

"There has got to be a more logical and sound approach so that the market values are not unduly constrained," Ongpin said.

Alphaland's flagship, Towers at Bonifacio, which sits on a lot taken over by the group in 2009, now has 66 percent of its office space leased out while the occupancy rate for the shopping mall space is 80 percent, Alphaland president Mario Gras said.

For this year, down and capital spending was set at P5 billion, as the company would pursue the development of various upscale projects, including luxury resorts Subic Island Club and Boracay Gateway Country Club, Makati Place which will include retail, leisure hub The City Place, the 35-story Makati Tower and upscale mixed-use development Alphaland Bay City.

Development cost for island resort Subic was estimated at P5 billion excluding land which is valued at about P960 million. This 400-hectare development will be subdivided into six villages which take inspiration from the most luxurious beach-side destinations across the globe — Saint-Tropez (France), Malibu (Thailand), Costa Smeralda (Sardinia), Ibiza (Indonesia), Mykonos (Greece) and Boracay (Philippines).

Abaitiz to power up 300-MW Davao plant

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Mindanao has also available investment of the government's vision of "Energy Access for Mindanao" with modernization as well as to validate energy services including geologic, electricity and countryside development," said Tomás Severino and BCR chair Gregory L. Domingo.

The Therma South coal facility will be put up on a narrow coastal strip along the eastern slope of Mount Talomo, facing the Davao Gulf. The main plant will be located on the northern portion of the 46-hectare property, while the coal storage and unloading area will be located in the southernmost of the lot.

Also, the BCR recently approved several projects worth a total of P1.84 billion. The projects are expected to generate some 2022 jobs.

Projects proponents include Filinvest Land Inc., Oriental Vision Mining Phils. Corp., Steel Asia Industrial Ventures Corp. and Pamalee Trucking Services.

Share prices bounce back

From page B1

Exchange index gained 39.38 points, or 0.94 percent, to finish at 4,230.36.

All counters traded in remains led by the property and services subindices which surged by 1.84 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

But value turnover was thin at P4.36 billion as investors were still hesitant to trade in a big way due to offshore and domestic economic challenges Lopez Economics said the day's rebound, registering P359 million in net foreign selling for the day.

There were 81 advancers against 46 decliners while 37 stocks were unchanged. Doris C. Dumlao

Businesses bullish . . .

From page B1

edited in rising global oil prices.

Respondents likewise expressed their concern over the recent disasters in Japan, which could dampen demand for Philippine exports. Japan is one of the Philippines' largest export markets.

Despite these concerns, they remain a generally positive outlook on the economy by the business sector due to the favorable performances of the economy, Guingonda said.

PLDT to reveal Sun deal details

By Paola D. Manzanilla

TO PROVE the legality of its acquisition of rival Sun Cellular the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) will make public scraps of its deal with the Gokongwei family, confident that this will withstand public scrutiny.

In comments on Thursday, PLDT said it had heeded calls by rival networks and consumer groups that have earlier called for more transparency in the deal that would change the dynamics of the country's competitive telecom arena.

"We are submitting the agreement to the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) voluntarily to dispel malicious statements made by some parties that PLDT and Digitel Telecommunications Philippines Inc. have something to hide," PLDT director and head for regulatory and policy affairs Ray C. Espinosa said.

Earlier this month, Ayala-led Globe Telecom Inc. accused PLDT and Digitel of hiding details of their deal that would kill competition in the industry leading to higher rates for consumers.

Globe said the NTC should order PLDT to publish its share purchase agreement with Tokongwei-led JG Summit Holdings Inc. so consumers make it Digitel, the operator of brand Sun Cellular.

After the deal, PLDT will end up with a 70-percent market share in terms of subscribers and revenues, higher than the company's current 53-percent share.

Globe, which will be left with a 30-percent share in the market, has called the deal anti-competition, and would lead to an imbalance in the industry. This would result in slower investment and higher costs for consumers.

But Espinosa assured that the deal was pro-consumer and would bring about substantial benefits to the general public.

"With this investment, Digitel customers and the public will be assured that Digitel will have the financial resources need to continue and maintain its position as a premium service under the Sun Cellular brand," Espinosa said. "The PLDT Group is committed to support and continue these collaborative ventures," he added.

Under the deal, PLDT would acquire 51 percent of Digitel from JG Summit for about P60.1 billion. The price includes convertible corporate bonds and intercompany advances to JG Summit.

Under the deal, PLDT will issue new shares at a price of P3,500 each to be used to payment to JG Summit for the Digitel stake.

Globe Business' exclusive Negostar deals for SMEs nationwide

BUSINESS

Metro Pacific refuses to budge over SCTex deal

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Company won't accept drastic changes to terms of contract

METRO PACIFIC Investments Corp. (MPIC) says it is unlikely to give in to government pressure, but it will not agree to any significant change in its concession contract for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway (SCTEX).

"That contract has already been competitively bid and MPIC president Jose Ma. K. Lim, referring to the SCTEx deal.

"I don't know what Bird (the Bases Conversion and Development Authority) position will be. They said so it makes to terminate the contract, as it's being renewed," Lim told reporters.

But the company is confident that the validity of its SCTEx deal will be upheld by the BOD, Lim said, explaining that the Toll Regulatory Board and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel had already approved the contract before it was signed by MPIC and the BCDA.

MPIC unit Manila North Tollways Corp. last November won the 25-year contract for SCTEx. But the company has been operating the highway for more than a year since interconnection.

Lim stressed that MNTC won the contract through a fair and competitive bidding.

Last week, MPIC revealed that the SCTEx concession contract's financial terms.

Under the contract's original terms, the BCDA will get a 10 percent share from the toll revenues.

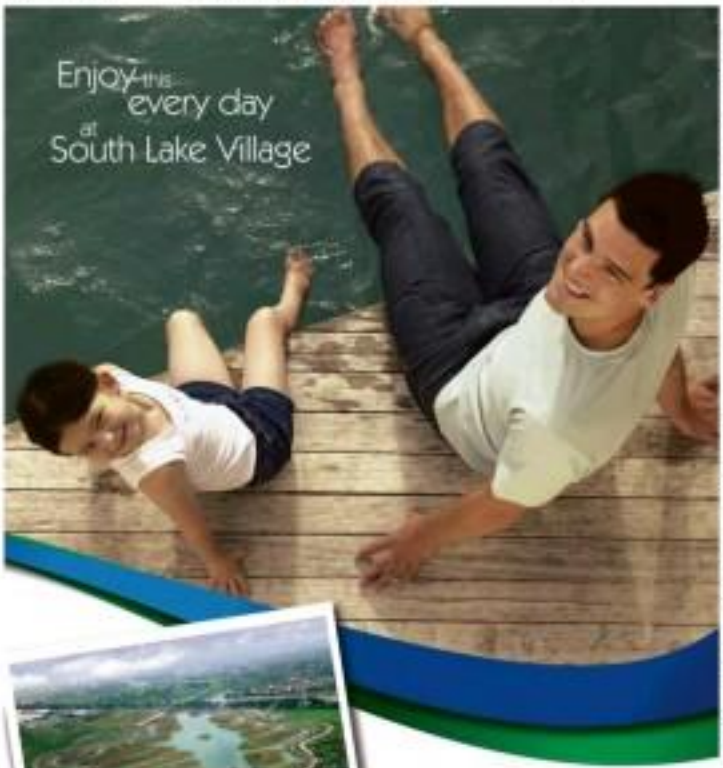
But Lim believes that "the original terms ... [are of the agreement will be followed]."

If the owners' wants to make changes in the economic provisions, we won't accept that," he added.

Lim said the BCDA review would be completed within 30 days.

In undertaking the review, the BCDA has vowed to make sure that it only hoped to ensure that "benefits for both the government and private sector" would be maximized.

Other government agencies and departments are also reviewing several projects that were approved by the previous administration for possible "reinvestigation."



Neda seeking expansion of trade links

By Riza T. Olchondra

ECONOMIC PLANNING Secretary Cayetano W. Pedemonte Jr. said the country would double its efforts in expanding trading links to cope with future shocks that might disrupt merchandise movements.

"Expanding the Philippines' trade relationships by exploiting forward and backward linkages of the current exports to our traditional trading partners may mitigate adverse impacts of regular shocks in the future. The reason for the country should be able to diversify its supplies and export markets in order to reduce vulnerabilities to the said markets," he said.

The latest data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed a 21.2-percent increase in the country's merchandise import bill in March 2011 to $5.523 billion from $4.559 billion a year ago. This brought the trade deficit to $1.671 billion, the NSO said.

Pedemonte noted that the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March disrupted the production chain and caused prices of electronic parts to increase.

"With Japan's status as a major supplier of capital goods and electronic parts, the disruption in the supply chain is expected to have impacted trading activities in East Asia, including the Philippines, in the months after the earthquake," said Pedemonte, who is also director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

According to the NSO, payments for imports of raw materials and necessary for the manufacture of electronic equipment surged by 109.9 percent in March 2011 despite the 34.2 percent contraction in volume shipped.

Import growth in March were driven by raw materials and intermediate goods (75.7 percent) and mineral fuels and lubricants (13.0 percent). The value of mineral shipments of mineral fuels and lubricants grew due to oil prices hikes in the world market.

"The increased upward pressure on oil prices emanated from political tensions in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa," Pedemonte said.

The average price of Dubai crude oil rose to $107.744 in March 2011, higher by 40.8 percent from $77.16 recorded in 2010.

Neda said the Philippines followed the double-digit imports growth trend in the East and Southeast Asian region. There with high imports growth were Indonesia (31 percent), Vietnam (18.3 percent), PR China (27.0 percent) and South Korea (27.1 percent).

For March 2011, the United States was the top source of Philippine imports with an 11.5 percent share, following the United States were Japan (10.4 percent), Singapore (9.5 percent), China (9.1 percent), and Taiwan (8.7 percent).

PH coconut oil shipments down by 22.4% in April

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS of coconut oil in April fell by 22.4 percent from a year earlier as copra supply remained tight due to bad weather. However, the value of the shipments nearly doubled on higher prices, preliminary industry data showed.

The country, the world's biggest supplier of coconut oil, shipped 138,198 tons of this commodity in last month compared to 178,492 tons in April last year.

Total shipments in January to April shrank by 20.1 percent to 575,230 tons, the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines (Unap) said in a report.

Vicente Aprieto, Unap executive director, said the decline was expected after the dry weather last year reduced by the 10 Million Bottles coconut oil copra production.

"We projected lower copra output this year since the impact of El Niño is expected to hit twelve months after," the Unap director said in phone interview.

Aprieto the cold continuous rains that occur because of the La Niña phenomenon hampered drying of copra and the delivery of raw materials to oil mills.

The industry group has forecast coconut oil exports, one of the country's top dollar earners, at 900,000 tons this year, almost a third lower than last year's shipments of 1.32 million tons.

"We haven't changed yet our expectation. The March and April data are preliminary and we are, in fact, running ahead of our first semester forecast of around 400,000 tons (for coconut oil exports)," Aprieto said.

Coconut oil exports in April generated revenues of $326.07 million, nearly double the year-ago earnings of $166.39 million, as prices more than doubled, Unap data showed. Reuters

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

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Louboutin, Lanvin up to 70% off –it's HK's fabled sale season

By Cinchi V. Moral

IMAGINE THIS: Leopard-print Louboutin lace-up booties at 60-percent discount; a black asymmetric wool dress from Lanvin's Fall-Winter 2010 RTW collection at 40-percent off; a lacey bandage dress from the British label Preen's Spring-Summer RTW 2010 collection marked down to 70 percent off the full price.

These show's Helmut Lang, Alexander Wang, Jason

CONTINUED ON C2

New book on Alexander McQueen is a portrait of manic genius

"Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty"
By Andrew Bolton
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2011. 240 pages

By Cherie V. Hurd

IF, LIKE us, there's no plane ticket in your name booked for New York before July 31, which is when the "Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty" exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of New York closes, some consolation can be found in the eponymous accompanying catalog by Andrew Bolton, curator of The Costume Institute at the Met.

The 240-page coffeetable book (available at National Bookstore) includes 200 stunning color images of McQueen's most iconic designs, taken by Sarker Kandolan, with an introduction by independent fashion editor Susannah Frankel, as well as Style.com's Tim Blanks' full-length interview with Sarah Burton, the late designer's trusted assistant and creative heir at the House of Alexander McQueen.

Burton, who famously designed the wedding dress of Catherine Middleton when she wed Prince William last month, provides a rare, intimate account of her mentor's thoughts and creative process. She was dubbed as London fashion's *enfant terrible* — he who defied the fashionistas, creating garments that broke conventions and provoked questions, clothes that were not only magnificent to behold but were social and political commentaries, as well — but whose genius tragically ended too soon.

Suicide

Fashion mourned the loss of McQueen, who committed suicide just over a week after his mother's own death in February last year. He was only 40.

Born Lee Alexander McQueen on March 17, 1969, to Londoners, London, to a cab driver and a genealogist, he had said in an interview that, even as a young boy, he knew he would "be something in fashion." He dropped out of school in 1985 and sought apprenticeships on Savile Row, where he mastered the craft of bespoke men's tailoring. The techniques of haute couture, the softness of his later works, he credited to his stint at Givenchy, where he took over after John Galliano moved to Dior.

"I don't think you can become a good designer, or a great designer... To me, you are just one. To know about color, proportion, shape, cut, fabrics, is part of a genius," McQueen said, responding to the image that, according to him, the media had created of his personality and success. "At the end of the day you're a good designer or you are not. I don't matter where you come from."

At the age of 20, he traveled to Milan to seek placement at Romeo Gigli, a famous designer at the time. The young lad was frustrated with the media attention generated by the Italian designer. "It had very little to do with the clothes and more to do of him as a person... You need to know that you're a good designer as well, though ... If you can't design, what's the point of generating all the hype in the first place?"

He later taught pattern-cutting at Central Saint Martins, where he was considered to enroll in the masters program. His graduation collection was famously bought by the stylist Isabella Blow, who would become his mentor. Blow, like her friend, committed suicide in 2007.

For McQueen, it was all about the clothes. He was about provoking emotional response. A collection began with how he pictured the clothes would appear in the show in that way, he was a performance artist, staging some of the most extravagant fashion shows. Perhaps, to some measure, the images in the book are an understatement.

"Highland Rape," his Fall-Winter 1995-96 collection, was among his seminal works, and one of the most controversial, informing the Scottish Highland's assistance by the British. It was a tribute to his Scottish heritage.

"You've got to know the rules to break them,' said English fashion's lone 'enfant terrible.' 'That's what I'm here for, to demolish the rules but to keep the tradition'

MCQUEEN's holographic image on the book cover

No stranger to controversy

McQueen was no stranger to controversy. The point continuously recounts, to this day, his claim that he had sexually-descriptive in the lining of a jacket intended for Prince Charles while he was working on Savile Row. The tailor, tailor-to-be Sheppard, recalled all the pieces they had made for the royal, only to find nothing.

But his antics were no more condemning as his designs. He famously created the "bumster" slits and trousers, cut so low as to cut back to reveal the cleavage of the buns. He said it was intended to elongate the female torso.

McQueen designed in "outrageous" seasons. "... There's a certain fearlessness to the clothes that makes her powerful. It kind of lends people off... It's almost like putting armor on a woman," he said. Burton says he was all about his waist.

"Lee loved strong women," says Burton. "The minute I started standing up and expressing my own opinion, he respected me more."

He was inspired by anything, she adds, collecting bits and cards to create a collage of his shelfs: heads, masks, a pack of cards — but he never bought a vintage piece to use as reference.

For "Plato's Atlantis" (which had the famous "Armadillo" shoes), McQueen had said Burton, "I don't want to look at any shapes. I don't want to reference anything... I want it all to be new." He did just that.

"I spent a long time learning how to construct clothes, which is important to do before you can deconstruct them," he once said.

"SCOTTISH" ensemble of [illegible] inspired pattern ("Plato's Atlantis," SS 2010), left

COTTON and synthetic lace dress ("Highland Rape," FW 1995-96), long belt with and lace dress with corset and armlets ("Widows of Culloden," FW 2006-07)

"BUMSTER" skirt

"You've got to know the rules to break them. That's what I believe for us: demolish the rules but to keep the tradition."

It's hard to wrap one's head around Mc-Queen's creative process, as Burton describes it. You picture the manic intensity of a genius — "I don't remember him sitting still that much," Burton recalls... clasping, cutting fabrics 30, producing an exquisite garment before your eyes, and just as quickly he would take it apart and start all over.

"He rarely changed whole collections, but a collection would evolve alongside his imagination," Burton says. "Sometimes the detail, lines were as right... (But) he knew that to the fitting he was completely capable of making a whole collection out of nothing."

On mimicking her mentor's process, she adds: "I tried to do it recently, and I thought, 'Oh no, I've cut the wrong bit cut!'"

And it is, perhaps, this McQueen singularity, his kind of creative instinct, that spectators of fashion will never see again.

Louboutin, Lanvin up to 70% off . . .

From page C1

Pin, Hunter (whereabouts at 10-19 percent off, on top of deeply discounted Manolo Martin Margiela, Yohji Yamamoto, Tsumori Sato, Dries Van Noten, Rick Owens-Lowe, Marni, Roland Mouret). And to that the selection of Jimmy Choos, Pedro Garcias, Givenchys and Brian Atwoods at a mere fraction of their original prices.

It's a sweet no-almost must-in to keep in remember. When in Hong Kong, you needn't pay full price for designer goods. That's if you don't mind shopping for off-season collections.

If you know where to go, you can outsave your designer dressing without dipping your self deep in plastic debt. We're willing to bet the savviest fashionistas here are already hitting the 14K corner for their discounter MegaSavvy... though we suspect they probably wouldn't admit it. So if you're not one of the only good stuff like they do, you might want to skip K11 on your next trip and, instead, head out to the outlets.

Outlet shops

In the south part of HK, in Ap Lei Chau, is Horizon Plaza (2 Lee Wing St., Ap Lei Chau; tel. 852-2554-9089), a 28-story industrial building that houses the outlet shops of the high-end department store Lane Crawford and equally upscale Joyce Boutique, among others.

Horizon Plaza is in a residential complex, accessible by bus or cab from Central. That it isn't be accessed by train has dissuaded many tourists who have limited of it... (according to it in the past — such that shoppers here are mostly locals. But going there, we learned on a trip last week, is actually quite easy and fast. And your efforts will be justly rewarded.

From Exchange Square in Central (Connaught Road), take the 309 bus to Ap Lei Chau (fare is HK$6.50). The scenic ride takes 20-30 minutes. Get off on the last stop. From the terminal, take a free minivan ride (HK$2.10) to Horizon Plaza. (Be warned: Belatedly that there's a shuttle from the bus terminal to Horizon Plaza, as he on the lookout for it.)

At the reception, ask for a copy of the shopping guide so you know which floors to go to. It has outlets for fashion, furniture and home accessories, kitchenware, toys and baby items, food and wines, and even an excellent pet supplies shop. (There are cafés in the building, if you get hungry.)

Business hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon. through Sun. some shops are closed on certain days, so you may want to check before going.

Dress comfortably

When you're off to an outlet shopping marathon, be mindful to dress comfortably. Wear clothes that are easy to slip on and off (if you want to try on clothes, and footwear that is comfy but just as easy to remove when you're trying on shoes.

We suggest you work your way down, beginning on the 27th floor, where you'll find the warehouse of Ogilvy Moraco, Juicy Couture, Mexx, Diesel, the Max Mara Fashion Group. The elevators are kind of slow, so you may want to take the stairs if you're going only one or two floors down.

The frenzied shopping reaches its pinnacle of HK's quite-a-entrance to the atmosphere here. On our visit last Thursday, we bumped into just a few European and mainland Chinese shoppers, so the shops are pretty quiet. But sales-staff friendly and helpful.

It's hard not to lose your head on the 25th floor, the vast Lane Crawford warehouse, which has last-season collections of every designer of note up to 70 percent off (up to 80 percent off for older collections). Even as we swam we were there just to do "research" for this article, it was hard to say no, for instance, to La Perla bras marked down from HK$1,500 (about $190) to HK$150 ($560).

Friends ecstatic about my trip insisted to Lane of the Lane selection. Sadly, it was also pickings at Lane Crawford, but the footwear shelves were astonishing also. Genuinely knee-high boots, fancy Louboutin, Sergio Rossi stilettos, all neatly sorted according to size. (Shoes to are another thing... don't expect, though, to find your size in all your style picks.)

Impressive selection

If you haven't known your budget yet when you arrive, make a beeline for the 22nd floor for Joyce Boutique, smaller than Lane Crawford but with a selection that's just as impressive. It has Balenciaga, Alexander Alexis, Isabomers, Comme des Garçons, Jil Sander, among others. The menswear racks and shoes are nine-tenth a look-see. Right above, on the 23rd floor, is the Armani outlet.

If you like your Jimmy Choos, head for Blanket Pavilion on the 19th floor, where you'll find the selection that's just as impressive. It has Balenciaga, Alexander Alexis, Isabomers, Comme des Garçons, Jil Sander, among others. The menswear racks and shoes are nine-tenth a look-see. Right above, on the 23rd floor, is the Armani outlet.

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THE WINDOW display of the I. T Outlet shop in Ruhe Bho Kue

THE OUTLET stores of Joyce Boutique, Marni and Lane Crawford at Horizon Plaza

CATHAY Pacific's new business class

Premium travel packages, amenities for HK visitors

THE INCREASE seems thoughtfully designed as Ocho's money left for your trip's main objective: shopping.

To time for Hong Kong's summer shopping festival, Cathay Pacific Airways is offering a three-day stay-night "Shop & Dining Bonus" package starting at US$295 (plus taxes), inclusive of Mandarin Hotel round-trip air ticket, hotel accommodation plus a selection of free gift offers. (Business Class package starts at $757. There are similar packages for flights originating from Cebu, Cali (7676666 in Manila, 2313747 in Cebu, and 3329662 in Davao.)

CX has 20 hotel partners to choose from, and the package is valid for departures until Aug. 30 (selling period is end Aug. 27). As to hotels, passengers can choose from around-Ulp airport-hotel transfers, Ocean Park entrance ticket, a copy of Hong Kong Shopping Methods Guide 2011, a Swatch Hippos and admission at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum or a duty-free coupon worth HK$150.

It seems that even in these are some budget-airline-scenic ring the Manila-Hong Kong route, CX still enjoys the premium of travelers who pay for the comforts of flying with a premier carrier. CX and its partner Dragon Air fly to Hong Kong from Manila 42 times each week.

"Many [budget airlines] have not really taken a chunk of our passengers from us," says Jan Charmaine Ng-Aguilla, CX marketing manager and Asia/Pacific Low, marketing communications associate.

JAN CHARMAINE Ng-Aguilla, CX marketing manager and Asia/Pacific Low, marketing communications associate

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CX has just launched its newly redesigned business class — wider, more relaxing and comfortable private space for long haul travelers. Akin to the all long haul business class seat of the airline, seats

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Pretenders C2

boots, is a mix of Jean-Paul Gaultier, Lanvin, Alexis, Kenkat.

On the fifth is the outlet of the LT boutique chain, which sells mainly designer labs Martin Margiela, Tsumori Sato, Yohji Yamamoto, Ann Demeulemeester. The footwear boutiques are just as extraordinary. Jeffrey Campbell leopard-print wedge booties at HK$500, for instance. Don't make the mistake of skipping on a purchase even as you're also headed to the LT Sale Shop in Stitt Hin Tsai (TST Elevated Building, across Harbour City on Canton Road); we discovered the stocks are different in every shop.

Before heading back to Central, check out Space Wardrobe (G/F, South Horizon Plaza, East Wing) near the bus terminal. It's the cooler sibling of Pedder and Mo Mo. There's a big Prada sign, so you won't miss it.

MC sale season takes off next month, but shopping in this retail capital is as good any time of year. Cathay Pacific Airways, which sponsored our trip, has fantastic packages for those in need of respite that would give you a lot of outlet-shopping moolah. (See sidebar on page C3.)

Long queues

The early HK store has throngs of shopping hordes. While Horizon Plaza had a smattering of shoppers on our visit, there were long queues outside the Chanel and Louis Vuitton boutiques in Harbour City (40's largest shopping mall) later that same day.

"It's always good to come shopping in late June to August and November to January because it's on sale everywhere — including the prestigious department stores like Lane Crawford, Joyce and Harvey Nichols. You can catch up to 80 percent off on brands such as Miu Miu, Givenchy, Alexander McQueen," says Katie Kwok, a HR local and fashion and beauty alumni editor of Sudday.com.com.

"[They're] a pretty good offer if you don't mind off-season products. Do pick the classic items if you want to carry it for long," she adds.

Kwok also suggests Citypoint Outlets in Lantau (Hong Chung Station) on the MTR, www.citypoint-outlets.com.hk), an outlet mall near the airport that Filipinos may be more familiar with.

"They have all the brands like Burberry, Timberland, Coach, Ralph Lauren and more," she says.

Celeste Chan, a freelance writer and former fashion editor of Esquire Hong Kong and Men's One, also suggests Citypoint as a good place to shop designer at discounted prices. Diane Von Furstenberg, Brands, Calvin Klein and Vivienne Tam all have their outlets in this mall.

"For a discount place, Citypoint Outlets are getting popular," he said. "I would say it's very well stocked. My personal favorites are Brooks Brothers and Aquascutum. I find some great things from the Ralph Phase One at the Former and there's an extra discount if you buy two pairs for more at the latter."

Final stop

If you're in the city for a limited period, you must strategize to cover short ground. Citypoint may be a good final stop, as Kwok suggests. "This is good for last minute shopping since it's just minutes away from the airport."

But if you have the budget, Chan suggests three shops to Causeway Bay. "For something more high-end, I would suggest the newly opened LT store on Leighton Road."

He adds: "Not entirely unconventional, Fish Market on Tin Hau Street, and Lupo on Pot Ho Road. Both stores are owned by some fashion stylists and they offer a great selection from street style to tasteful chic."

Whatever Kwok your heart, as they say, and for many of us, that only means one thing: a good bargain. Indulge your fashionista money on an H&M budget? Okay, that maybe pushing it, but it doesn't mean you can't try.

Premium travel packages . . .

From page F7

convert into a flat bed with foam ergonomically designed to ensure a restful sleep. While the new seat provides utmost privacy, it still also delight channeling ambiance. It's tried and comfort as the previous design.

The New Business Class has ample storage space for passenger belongings like handbags and laptops. There's a side cabinet that doubles as a privacy screen, a shoe holder, and even recessed mirror-lined cabinet door. Unlike before when the window is to your back, the seat is now angled to provide a view of the window.

Along with the New Business Class, CX has also just launched The Cabin, its ultra-modern lounge for first- and business-class passengers, as well as Silver and above Marco Polo Club, Sapphire, Emerald and oneworld members, located at Gate 22 of Hong Kong International Airport's Terminal 1.

Sleek design

While studies that CX's other lounges (The Wing, The Pier, G16 and The Arrival), The Cabin's sleek, contemporary design makes up for what it lacks in size.

Designed by the London firm Foster + Partners, The Cabin is the official destination for many passengers in transit at this time as The Wing is undergoing a facelift. In place of The Wing's famous noodle bar is The Deli, which serves a good selection of sandwiches and salads, as well as hot, grilled sandwiches, and a buffet of Asian and Western dishes.

The Health Bar on the other side of the lounge serves the usual alcoholic beverages and cocktails, as well as fresh-squeezed juices, smoothies and shakes, and herbal teas.

There's an IT Zone that has high-speed WiFi Internet, LCD PCs, CD/DVD players, as well as 20 iPads preloaded with the latest apps and reading materials. Adjacent is a coffee machine with a selection of cookies and tea other (and magazines and newspapers) if you can't be bothered to cross the room to get in the main room itself.

The Cabin also features the Solus Chairs, handcrafted by the Italian firm Poltrona Frau, so designed to provide an individual private space to work, eat or relax.

From the privacy of the New Business Class, to the privacy on the Solus Chairs in the lounge of an airport an hour or long-haul's, sometimes we all just want is to show.

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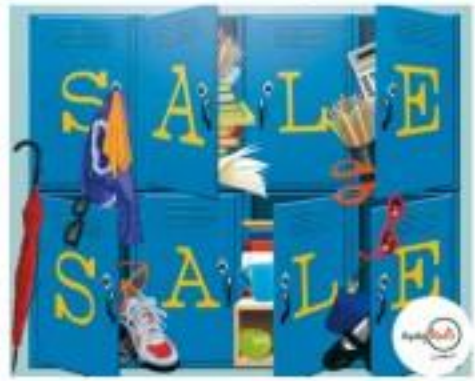

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Trendy timepieces, striking pendants

SWATCH Full-Blooded
Burgundy Elephant Chrono
Dial: Sun-brushed
burgundy with white
indexes and 12 crystal hour
markers
Case: Transparent
clear plastic
Bezel: Burgundy aluminum
Bracelet: Burgundy
aluminum

SWISS FASHION watch and jewelry maker Swatch presents the Full Blooded Collection—10 new Elephants Chrono watches in signature Swatch plastic cases, featuring straight-off-the-catwalk colored dials with rugged aluminum bezels and bracelets in fashionable colors.

Three of the new models feature sparkling crystal hour markers and colors, while another two present dials with silvery shell silhouettes. An additional set of five new monochromatic unisex models comes in trendy colors.

All models in the new Swatch Full Blooded Collection offer the classic look and feel of the Elephants Chronos, with their easily readable dials and light weight, sporty and elegant designs.

Complementing these latest additions to the Full Blooded Collection is a new Swatch Bijoux family. Three pendants showcase clever shells, each made out of stainless steel and

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MOI . Melissa Morales with daughter Daniela Ortiz, lawyer Mike Toledo

ANNABELLE Reese, Jacquelin Lhuillier, Raffy Gutierrez, Carla dal Prado from Cebu

FRENCHMAN Jonathon Crespi, Raffy G., edward and super trader Eduardo Montes, Stephanie Zubiri

GLAM de Guzman, Pia Campos of W Talent Management, Kat Alano, Richard Herrera of "The Amazing Race"

RUFFA Gutierrez in Raja Laurel, Cricialle Bolo Navarro in Randy Ortiz, Dr. Vicki Belo in Monin Miller

Beauty clinic for the fab set launches new body-contour service

GIRLICIOUS RUFFA Gutierrez organized an intimate 8 affair she termed in the exclusive Salon de Ning at the Peninsula Manila. Occasion was the launch of BodyTite, the latest body contouring service of Vicki Belo's aesthetic station, dubbings.

The short program was superbly hosted by dashing John James Uy and beautiful erstwhile Girlie Bolocorta.

"I was convinced that BodyTite was just the perfect procedure to remedy the loose skin in my body," said Ruffa. "After having two kids, BodyTite gave my body a curvy, tighter, flatter look."

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Heinrich Arcache

Photos by Alen Van Hagen, powered by MAC cosmetics

Radiant and glam in a beige Raja Laurel outfit, Ruffa immediately ignited Salon de Ning, looking every inch the beauty queen that she is. My pal, aesthetic jane Anjie Dingcong, Belo's mega imaging and marketing consultant, masterfully planned the fun happening—and wow what a party it was!

Gone all the intimidation that sets anything into the yummy brown cocktail tones that included smoked duck breast, green asparagus wrapped in Parma ham, lobsterbrella with tomatoes and goat cheese, salmon profiterole, chicken tandoori, egg, stable salmonera, smoked fish and potato croquette.

Sinverbingly, a "Ballantini" drink was especially concocted for the occasion, made of Belvedere citrus, Cointreau, mango, lemon, pink pepper and freshly lime leaf.

Best Ventures, the beauty care's favorite chanteuse, belted out great crowd-pleasers with her super-hand, Amas.

Ruffy came with her fab mom, Annabelle Rama, and talents from her mom's loyal Tru Action Management, such as Bubbles Paraiso, Elen Modrigal and Aaron Bueno.

Ruffa's fabs included Bimo Tantoco, Sesan Mendoza, Jacquelin Lhuillier, Cary Quirino, Kitchie Concio, Rhea Tantoco, Chris Badiola, Cristine San Diego, Bubby Ty, Marlene Milan, Oliver Rubio, Tim Yap, Phoemela Barranda, designer John Herrera, Khalil Ramos-Revilla and Alice Dixson. Also there were Ruffa's brothers Raymond and Richie Paul Gutierrez.

Fearless emcee Bubby Ty was there with the clinic's endorsers, dashing actor Edward Hinedoz, and Singaporean branding consultant Jacqueline Ong.

The bottom line is that a truly sexier, more beautiful and breathtaking Ruffa glowed all through out the evening. Definitely Belo knows her business!

ED REYES, the celebrator's mother and hostess Yolanda Reyes, Ernest Escudero, Duane Garcia, the celebrator Patrick Reyes

ANNOUNCER Isabel Wilson, Mia Borromeo

ANNE Marcos, Joni Espinosa, Carla Calma

TRACKS! Lupa, Jessi Epperson and Tita Pantilo

KAPE Gra. Maria, Tricia Rodriguez, Denise de Castro

DAVAO Lolou Zaldivar, Adam Lifeclix of Manila Pen Hotel and beverage department, Jojo Diaspong (middle)

JAMAICA Giovanni Everingham, Cherry del Rosario, JM Rodriguez, Cedric Lee, Samantha Lopez-Edwards

CEBU Jessel Jesl and Carla dal Prado, Vicki B.'s counselor, with Marlene Tantoco, Jasmine Cuhengson-Chua

MIMA Garcia, Paul Calderwings and Malu Galinga

ACE photographer Alan Van Hagen with the birthday cakes

Cognac party

The cocktail affair evokes the cosmopolitan whose flavoring runs both kisses when organic to all about, dubbings. Then, renowned Hennessy XO hosted a fine evening for a chi-chi-ness group of top executives, society types and wine enthusiasts.

Olga Anacoreta of Moët Hennessy Philippines welcomed the invitees to the Presidential Suite of The Oakwood Hotel in Ortigas for a night of "appreciation for Hennessy XO Limited Edition," participants.

The exquisite menu prepared by chef Jeremie Castrillon featured Mini en Brioche, Tremor de Foie Gras en Brioche and dishes made with Hennessy ramen, such Pear Gratin with Hennessy and Cheddar and Wellness Chocolate Mousse flavored with Hennessy Bombs.

Then it was time to introduce the first

40th birthday bash

An exclusive and Manila Jockey Club Patrick Reyes celebrated his 40th birthday with an elegant gathering at his parents' sprawling South Forbes Park home. The 90 chosen invitees got all dolled up in their black and white outfits, the dress code, to commemorate the said white debut.

Chef Margarita Araneta-Reyes prepared an excellent menu, while live classical and cool jazz music was provided by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

After dinner, we had the yummy dessert table swinging '70s and '80s sounds in the background. Then the celebrator talked his sister pals Jacquie Ruffon, Lindy Castillo and rest, to strut a few words.

Patrick was the perfect host of the evening, dubbings. Helping him entertain guests was his mom, in turquoise Yolanda Reyes.

Patrick was also celebrating his homecoming as well, after two years of study in London, where he obtained a master's degree in Modern and Contemporary Art from Christie's, and another master's degree in Asian Art History and Archeology from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

The friends of the celebrator reflected his different interests: Doris Bo of Asia Society; art collector Pauline Que and interiorcity designer Betty Que; Jacket's Action Ian Diego and Tita Rosemarie; TV's Tim Yap; architects Ramon Antonio and Benny Revilla; and musician Patricia Perlas and Ricardo Po of Grocery Bros., naturally.

"I will soon launch my new and latest venture when I open Mont Gallery on Serving Bros. Boulevard this June," Patrick told us. So it was no wonder that his presents for his guests was a box of mini-canvas featuring the works of artists who will be exhibiting in his gallery.

To dear Patrick, Mr. Degree at 40, as the saying goes. May all your dreams come true!

PEPPER Tankoulow, Fe Rodrigues

LOUIE Tarnate, Robert Ho

MIGUEL Pereirera, Steve Theodore spandau

FRENCHMAN Geoff Morgan de Rivery of Mulinge Caffins, Michelle Pannecoucke

LONDON and Phoebe Isaac of Mallorca Affairs, Anton Mandaza

TINA Pantaleon

FRENCHMAN CEO Jacinto Rou, architect and interior designer Chito Antonio, Transcontinental Diversified Group founder and chair Bobbie Delgado, and Bunny Campos

MIDST Hennessy Asia-Pacific business development manager Randy Sim and Hennessy Maker brand ambassador Jean Michel Cavalie

RISING Star, Moët Hennessy Philippines chief representative Olga Anacoreta, Steven Campos and Linda Lee

Winner of Mont Hennessy Richard Alarcon

Ayurveda talk at Echoyoga

WHAT'S Up

...workshop will tackle the three doshas or body constitutions, diet and influence of food, detoxification, creating a home pharmacy, and general discussion on how food stimulates prepared. Participants are advised to take all food questions, as each session builds on the other. The workshop is divided into June 4 and 11. Saturday, at 4 p.m., and on June 5 and 12, Thursday, at 6:30 p.m.

Other Echoyoga workshops include Yin Yoga on June 7 at 6:30 p.m., Yoga Therapy for Athletes on June ...

AYURVEDA is an alternative system that offers a holistic approach to health and well-being. Ayurveda, or Sanskrit meaning "the science of life") or Ayurveda mainstream, is a system of traditional medicine native to India, (attested in Southeast Asia, and practiced in other parts of the world as a form of alternative medicine. Ayurveda has been welcomed for its full practice-based medicine and range of applications. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, working with renowned Ayurveda practitioners in partnership with Anoja Ayurveda Center, Echoyoga will be offering regular sessions of Maharishi Ayurveda. Taught by Pandit Kyosiro of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi vedic university lineage, the

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Trendy timepieces, striking pendants

From page B1

SVCM4008AG Full-bloodied White Skull
Model: Elephant Dreams
Dial: White with silver skull and black indices
Case: Smoky-white transparent plastic
Bezel: White aluminum
Bracelet: White aluminum

SVCM4008AG Full-bloodied Smoky Blue

SVCM4013AG Full-bloodied Smoky Gray
Model: Elephant Dreams
Dial: Sun-brushed anthracite with silver equestrian hands
Case: Smoky anthracite matte plastic
Bezel: Anthracite aluminum
Bracelet: Anthracite aluminum

SVCM4008AG Full-bloodied White Skull
Model: Elephant Dreams
Dial: White with silver skull and black indices
Case: Smoky-white transparent plastic
Bezel: White aluminum
Bracelet: White aluminum

Swing from a black silk or black plastic necklace. Two skull pendants—one large and one slightly smaller—sits in stainless steel with black PVD, and one is studded in pol. ished stainless steel and set with sparkling white crystals.

Swatch is available at Swatch Stores in SM Megamall, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 5, and Trinoma; Swatch Kiosks in SM MoA of Bay, SM City Bicutan EDSA, SM City Davao, Glorietta 2, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Greenhills 1 Mall, Shangri-La Plaza, Robinsons Place, Ermita, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Festival Mall and Ayala Center, Cebu; and Kiosk in the Mall Shops in Alabang Town Center and Ayala Marquee Mall, Angeles, Pampanga.

SVCP4005AG Full-bloodied Smoky Black

SVCC4005AG Full-bloodied Smoky Brown

What's Up

From page D1

5 at 6:30 p.m., Madhatters Circle of Light (open to the public) on June 21 at 6:30 p.m., Pool Life Group Registration on June 24 at 4 p.m., and following into MindSobre on June 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Participants are requested to reserve slots for the workshops. Visit schoyogis.schoyen.ph, (0905 9806 GIGSHOP), or e-mail schoyogisandshopgi@gmail.com. Schoyogis Community Center is at the penthouse of Century Plaza, 130 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

'Realizing' the future

To mark the 100th anniversary of Rizal's birth and the 100th anniversary of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, the Yuchengco Museum presents "Realizing the Future," an interactive exhibit revolving our National Hero in a never-popular light. The show surveys the ambitions, brands, movements and directions that have pointed to Rizal as their root of inspiration and challenges visitors to realize and carry out Rizal's spirit.

The event is on June 3 at the RCBC Plaza Courtyard. The event is free and open to everyone.

"Realizing the Future" is on view until Oct. 29. The Yuchengco Museum is at RCBC Plaza, corner Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati. Museum hours are Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 8891534 or e-mail info@yuchengcomuseum.org.

Cowboy Grill celebrates 17 years

As a way of thanking loyal customers for 17 years, Cowboy Grill presents its most extravagant anniversary promo "Party and Ride," until July 31 at all Cowboy Grill branches. Diners will get a chance to win a brand-new Chevy Dzir and other cool goodies from generous partners. Every P500 worth of one to a raffle coupon which should be redeemed on the day itself to be able to join the monthly outlet draws. Every participating outlet will hold a monthly draw to raffle off cellphones, iPads, laptops and motorcycles and lots of gift certificates plus Cowboy Grill steaks. Monthly draw deadlines for submission of entries are as follows: May 30, June 2; June 23, July 7 and July 31. All non-winning evening draw entries will automatically be included in the Grand Draw for the brand new car which is set on May 5. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 31.

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salon one

AND IN THESE SALONS:

ANTIPOLO: Amy's Salon, Chanel ni John Espinosa Salon, Ella Dolores Salon, BATANES: Hair & Makeup Batanes City, BATANGAS: G Salon Batangas City, Melba Hair Straightening Salon Batangas City, BICOL/LUZON: Jollibelle Salon Bikenworth, Bikwen Salon Boracay, Tora Evangelista Batangas, LAGUNA: Lakeshore Beauty Salon Laguna City, Chester's Salon, Jack Beauty Salon Laguna City, Salon De Reina Beauty HQ Salon and Wellness Spa, LAS PIÑAS: Jolimark Salon, MAKATI: Philippe's Flagship Tamo, Kitchenex Rockwell, Memorella Salon, Mercy Creations by Lizard Ramos, Regina's Salon Makati, MANDALUYONG: Cab Salon, MANILA: Cosmopolitan Salon, Del Valle Salon, Fashion Point Salon, Hair 101, Mint & Dot Salon, Obsesyon Salon, Reverazzi, Salon de Trabante, MARIKINA: 321 G Salon, Frida Salon, Ma. Yi Beauty Salon, Lilac Salon, MUNTINLUPA: Angus Salon Alabang, Salon De Annie Sunnie & Corp. Alabang, Mikey's Barbershop and Salon Alabang, Regina's Salon Alabang Town Center, OLONGAPO: Cool La Mo, Hair Impressions, Images Salon, PAMPANGA: Gualdoni Salon Angeles City, PARAÑAQUE: Gerard C. Salon, Cosmo World Salon, Cut Above The Rest Beauty Salon, QUEZON CITY: Amanda Perez Salon, Angelo Ferero, Bora Salon Kalayaan, Daniello Fuentes - Diliman, Daniello Fuentes - Timog, Dolores Wind Sumner, Dimagiba Commonwealth, Estella Capistrano, Euphoria Salon Kalayaan, Fanny Serrano Tomas Morato, Genevieve Commonwealth, Hairlines Monteverde Cubao, Interlook Tomas Morato, Le Salon, Lorena Salon, Mendez Salon, Metro Salon, Rhey Salon, Salon de Jo Kamuning, Salon de Point Cubao, Salon de Tiong, Salon Trevis, Sandra's Cubao, Stanislaus Salon, Substance Salon, Vaildave Salon, RIZAL: Bonifacio Nine Stonehillian, The Gate One Salon Cainta, SUBIC BAY: Sid Kolbus, Cuts n' Curves Commissary, Fanny Serrano Commissary, Nanda Forever Salon, Pat at Cuenco, Prissy's Salon, TARLAC: Jaimes Cuadro CHARLES: Hair Impressions

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Jeremy Scott for swatch

ZIG ZAG

More than just an anti-dandruff shampoo

By Sasha Lim Uy
Contributor

Celebrity endorsers swear by Clear's many benefits beyond fighting dandruff, including hair fall control and fresh new scents

CLEAR'S JAM! Carlos Carreiro, Unilever marketing manager for hair Anna Mangilin, Clear brand manager Kelkie Contreras, Bea Alonzo, Piolo Pascual, PR and events manager of Unilever Nikki Abella and Unilever media manager Maeve Saenarios

BOSES YOU'VE experienced the ups and downs of fame, you learn to take things in stride. That's what actor Piolo Pascual has gotten used to doing.

"You need to be able to adapt and just live with the fact that people will always want to say things about you," he said. "As long as you don't step on other people's toes, then it's okay."

But the same advice doesn't always apply to hair care—specifically to his choice of shampoo. For three years, Piolo has remained unfazed, unchanged and true, and his devotion, no pun intended, has been perfectly clear.

"When I use Clear Shampoo, I feel more confident that my hair is dandruff free," said the actor, who revealed that his favorite haircut is the Clear Men Cool Sport Menthol Anti-Dandruff shampoo, which he prefers for its minty and fresh scent. He hasn't tried anything else since.

The difference with Clear, said fellow brand ambassador Bea Alonzo, is that it actually addresses hair problems like dandruff and scalp care. "You can't just wash them away. You have to get to the root of the situation."

CLEAR endorser Piolo Pascual

New Clear

For Filipinos, especially women, hair plays a huge role in building confidence. Even men have a personal preference. Piolo, for one, prefers women to have untreated, long, smooth and shiny hair, which he describes as "very Filipina."

But Clear brand manager Kelkie Contreras said it's not enough to focus on the external shine.

Sixty percent of Filipinos have dandruff, announced Contreras, but not everyone uses anti-dandruff shampoo. She cites as a reason that some people would not anti-dandruff shampoo, but would revert back to other kinds.

"They would say that they have other needs that an anti-dandruff shampoo does not address," she said.

To answer all needs, Clear developed a

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A. LIPIN

FUSSO MAGOO BY RY. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEROOTS BY ELIZABETH CHECHELO

SHOT BLUES BY JOHN SCOTT

ROCKYMACHINE BY TAKAO AOKEA

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF MAHER

TAGOOR BY HANA COLL

SUDOKU

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

EASIER (Week 21 to April 19) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You'll socially relax dealing with others today, especially partners and close friends. It's also a good day to be involved in community issues.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	6	4	5	8	1	2	9	7
7	2	9	3	6	4	5	1	8
1	5	8	9	7	2	3	4	6
6	4	5	1	3	9	8	7	2
8	9	1	2	4	7	6	3	5
2	3	7	8	5	6	4	9	1
4	8	3	6	2	5	9	8	1
5	1	6	4	9	8	7	2	3
9	7	2	8	1	3	1	6	4

Conceptis SudoKu By Mare Gasso

		7	2		4	9		
		1	5		9	8		
4	8			2			9	6
2	1			8			7	4
		2	8		5	3		
		9	1		3	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

More than just an anti-dandruff shampoo

From page E1

Total 3 formula that addresses the three main hair problems—flaking, hair fall, and itching and dryness.

"It's not just a facelift, we've put some revolutionary stuff inside too," said Gentian, showcasing the sleeker, more space-efficient bottles.

Pro-Maintain 1.0 for men and Scentsus 1.0 (for women) were reportedly developed using patented technology that neutralizes the scalp three layers deep, and deploys more "dandruff fighters."

The two formulations are a mix of 16 special ingredients of vitamins, minerals and menthol-ene, said Dr. David Steinhardt, global research and development director for Unilever's hair care category.

Menthol, explained Steinhardt, act as scavengers, and terminate lipids' radical chain reaction. "This inhibits the formation of dandruff," he said. The new Clear also creates a hydrophilic silicone surface which extends all the way from the scalp to the most damaged part of the hair, the tips.

"We took into consideration the differences between males and females," Steinhardt said, adding that men lose more hair protein than females and also secrete more sebum, an oily substance that prevents skin from drying out.

Perfume-inspired

The most noticeable difference, however, is the new perfume-inspired scents for the shampoos.

For men, Aqua Sport was derived from Olympic Happy. It reveals fresh and cool top notes of Pacific Green air, water melon, grapefruit and lemon juice, before swelling up to introduce the familiar freshness of lavender, green apple and pear. The whole scent is tied together with a warm mix of wood, cashmere, musk and amber.

The women's scent is very reminiscent of the floral whiffs of Escada Magnetism. It has base notes of gerardine accord and raspberry, which eventually open up to fruities undertones of sparkling apple, red fruit and black currant. The complex base of crimson rose, night jasmine, osmanthe, amber and blond woods fuse the whole fragrance together.

Gentian said that these two fragrances were chosen specifically for the Filipinos' tastes. To narrow their choices down, they selected scents that worked well with Clear's brand—authentic, bold, unique and groundbreaking.

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and Gilbert Simpao, managing director for skincare, oral care and deodorants

HOSTS Bangy Hizonno and Bianca Velarde

HOST Miss and Isabel Rosa

DJ LEOKSHA and KISS-CBW's Mayte Lacson

DIRTY Dog Wet Sunglasses feature classic all-the-set polarized lens.

Sunglasses designed for water sports

OPTIMATE Industrial Corporation brings wet sunglasses to water sports enthusiasts in the Philippines through its latest Australian brand Dirty Dog.

The latest optical technology called hydrophobic coating, allows the lens to repel water. Dirty Dog Wet Sunglasses also has water-escape vents in the frame to allow water to flow away from the eyes and keep them as dry as possible.

Dirty Dog Wet Sunglasses also features state-of-the-art polarized lens, which provide the clearest view possible in, on or around water, coupled with a scratch-resistant hard coat for maximum durability.

Price starts with a fully detachable elasticized headband to keep them on the face when one is playing ball or her favorite sport.

Australian athlete Brad Webb of the BMW Oracle Racing Team sported his Dirty Dog during the 33rd America's Cup. His winning team will be defending its place in the 34th America's Cup in 2013.

Dirty Dog Wet Sunglasses are now available at optical shops nationwide.

For more information, visit www.optimate.com.ph.

Extend your summer beauty with Soleil Limited Cosmetics Collection

No girl can live without a lipstick and a good shade of a foundation. Sun Sun Soleil Limited Cosmetics Collection allows you to have your own collection of foundation and different shades of lipstick.

Sun Sun Soleil Matte Foundation is especially created for the Filipina skin type.

There's no need to hide from the sun as Sun Sun Soleil Matte Foundation has SPF 33 (PA++) which makes it perfect for the summer. Women with oily faces don't have to worry because it is non-greasy and also has that lightweight feel as if they're not wearing any makeup.

Sun Sun Limited Cosmetics Collection now offers every woman different shades of lipstick to choose from or better yet, collect everything to suit every day. Aside from the usual shades available, Sun Sun Limited Cosmetics Collection has Vitamins A, C, E, and SPF which are essential components in keeping the lips healthy and beautiful.

Grab your Sun Sun Soleil Limited Cosmetics Collection lipstick for only P308.75, its available shades are Nude Caribbean, Peach Bliss, and Pink Tropics; all embody the exciting colors of summer.

Sun Soleil is Hbc's newest luxe and exclusive TV personality Marnie Reyes embodies a woman's beauty inside and out. She has been in the limelight for quite a while and she has carried herself with elegance.

Aside from it being a limited collection, Sun Sun Soleil Collection is the first local cosmetics collection that has a summer inspired theme which makes it really perfect for the tropical climate in the country.

Sun Sun Soleil Limited Cosmetics Collection is available at all Hbc stores nationwide. Visit the website at www.hbc.com.ph

Sun Soleil Matte Foundation SPF 33, Sun Sun Soleil lip colors—Peach Bliss, Nude Caribbean and Pink Tropics

AUSTRALIAN athlete Brad Webb of the BMW Oracle Racing Team sported his Dirty Dog during the 33rd America's Cup.

SUN SUN Soleil Matte Foundation SPF 33, Sun Sun Soleil lip colors—Peach Bliss, Nude Caribbean and Pink Tropics

Summer-inspired makeup

MAKEUP-based Sun Sun has released its limited-edition Soleil Collection that

Soleil, the French term for sun, depicts the collection's warm yellow tone packaging. The products under Soleil are enriched with Vitamins A, C and E, and sunscreen.

The Soleil Matte Foundation (P349.75) has SPF 33 for maximum protection against harmful UV rays. It provides a smooth radiant finish and a lightweight feel, perfect for all skin types.

Summer is also the best time to try new lip colors such as Sun Sun Soleil in Pink Tropics, Peach Bliss and Nude Caribbean (P149.75 each) with SPF 25 for lip care. They come in neutral shades that are very suitable for the summer season.

Popularly known as the "blushing with 6 tones," Sun Sun is Hbc's exclusive makeup line with products ranging from lipsticks to face powders, nail colors, and scrubs.

Sun Sun Soleil Collection is available in all Hbc stores nationwide. Visit www.hbc.com.ph, or call Hbc Customer Care at 9845555 for 2201999 (02)3333333.

Shoppers' Alley

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Football superstars talk buying grocery, shopping in Oxford Street

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

Football superstars James and Phil Vom plan kind and they aren't the biggest fans of shopping. But with all the endorsement deals these brothers have and the hundreds of gifts they receive from adoring friends and fans, who can blame them?

The 23-year-old Phil said it was probably the most expensive thing he'd ever bought in his life but that he plans to build his own house in the Philippines in the near future.

"I have done grocery shopping before when I lived in Denmark for three months," Phil told the Inquirer on the sidelines of the launch of Smart Buddy's "Share a Moment" reality series launch recently at the Bonifacio Global City.

Asked which they think is the best shopping place they've been to, James smiled, probably Oxford Street in London, where the Brands Hijjius boutiques are found.

"We spend more on travelling than we do shopping," said 24-year-old James, who said he can't even begin counting how many times fans had asked to take pictures with him.

"If not travelling, just going out, eating out with my family. But I often we spend on."

Both James (#7) and Phil (#10) are members of the Philippine Football Team (more popularly known as Azkals) undoubtedly the most famous football team in the country has ever had. The two, along with the other Azkals members are gearing up for the World Cup qualifiers in June and July that find from the country will be in 12 years.

Aside from merchandises they receive from their endorsement deals, the two said they had received (mostly) stunning motorcycle gifts from fans.

"I once received a scrapbook which contained a collection of letters from my fans around the country. It was crazy," said the younger Younghusband.

"In fact, someone gave me my pocket in carrots to one of our events in a mall. I had it framed. It's a mess in the house with all the gifts," said James.

The good thing about the kindness that they never let their fan-boosting celebrity status affect their performances on the football turf. More than that, they never let it get to their heads.

With overseeing girls—and guys—at the Smart event in Mall of Asia, it's pertinent the new reality series show where they would be find stuck. The Younghusbands were cautious by what could have one seen in store for.

James said: "We, we cannot get tired of our fans. They've certainly become our friends."

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New Billabong boardshorts is so light it 'feels like wearing nothing'

BILLABONG RIDER Luke Lundgren, one of the country's most popular pro surfers goes for the intense surf adventures. In his pursuit for thrills mixed with his surfboard, he seeks for high-performance action gear to match the rush of his heart-rolling stamina.

Luke, who has been surfing for years now has tried just about every boardshorts out there but says that the new Billabong FIT is the lightest that "it feels like wearing nothing."

"It stretches with me when I move with the waves," Billabong Asia's rider Lundgren intones. The world's leading boardshorts allows limitless boundaries in optimal performance.

With the latest technology in high-performance boardshorts, the new Billabong FIT is super-light-weight and four-directional stretch, boosting freedom and enhancing flexibility. The material also minimizes chafes and skin irritation.

"It makes me feel invincible, it freedom like no other, just the way I wanted," he said.

Built with the most advanced technology, the Billabong FIT boardshorts features five key components. First, it's equipped with FLOatation stretch with no-sag panty for 4-way stretch in all directions. Second, it's three times lighter, weighing less than 140 grams, tagged as the lightest boardshorts in the world.

Third, it has FLOtape tech nology to eliminate wear abrasion and friction. Fourth, it stays as long to tight seam stitching with its infinite seams for maximum flexibility and comfort. Fifth, strategic slits in the gussets are strategically positioned FIT performance holograms that increase bid ance and strength, and sold ex tra flexibility.

The billabong FIT board shorts is now available at Aloha Boardsports in dynamic retail company that offers surf and skate apparel stores in SM Megamall, and at the recently opened Billabong flagship store in Powerplant Mall, Rockwell.

Skin care line gives more reason to go organic

THE DEMAND for organic and chemical-free products has increased over the years because people have rediscovered the benefits of organic products. Fear since keenly conscious individuals believe if it can be done naturally, why get for artificial means? But the hassle of mixing our favorite fruits and veggies into one effective skin care regimen can be out for the patients. With Beauty Elements Institute Inc. (BeeI) expertise and understanding of our skin needs, our skin can enjoy and maximize the benefits from cucumber, avocado, papaya, calamansi and lemongrass (tanglad). The efficacy of these fruits in keeping our skin younger-looking and healthy was tried, proven and tested in Kojie san Pomegranate Toners, which BeeI released last year. With this rising demand for more organic products, BeeI is now launching the Kojie san Pomegranate soap and Kojie san Pomegranate lotion. "The pursuit for fabulous skin has lead to the development of a myriad of natural remedies, which have been passed on from generation to generation. With this fact, BeeI adds the advance technology to produce quality organic skincare that can preserve and enhance the effectiveness of each fruit/veggie we use. With Pomegranate toners, soap and lotion, effective and safe organic skin care is just over the counter," BeeI sales director Jon Mabesa said. "BeeI always aims in providing our loyal patrons and clients to the most natural, safe and effective skin care products that are readily available for them," Kojie san Pomegranate soap, Pomegranate lotion and Pomegranate facial cleanser and toner in one are available in all Watsons outlets, Mercury Drug stores, SM supermarkets and other leading stores. For more information please contact 890-6778 or e-mail bspower_info@yahoo.com. You can also visit www.kojiesan.com.

Step into French style and comfort

By Raquel P. Guerrero

As a brand name, Sledgers sounds very English but it's actually a top French brand of footwear known for making trendy stylish shoes that are durable and comfortable.

Sledgers has its roots way back in 1921 in France, when a father and son modest started making shoes for men and eventually grew the business, which today comprised of the Shed Group. The group is known in France for making shoes for the French military and the police. It also makes children's shoes.

Famous French footwear brand Sledgers has capitalized on innovation to make shoes for work and weekend leisure very comfortable

The company is produced the brand Sledgers 20 years ago to cater to men wearing dress shoes to match their suits. Its name came from the company's founder John Sledgers, whose taste for premium shoe craftsmanship paved the way for the brand's popular to in Europe and UK markets.

Sledgers export manager Florian Bashor said Sledgers at now 300 outlets and a very popular brand of shoes in the Middle East, where people wear very suits and very light shoes.

"The brand's main targets are men who are looking for quality and comfort. If you take any pair of Sledgers, you'd find out that they don't just look very stylish but also endowed somehow. What we mean by comfort is that every time we design a shoe, we not only try to make it look nice and elegant, but we put in place technologies such as materials and designs to make the shoe absorb shock and be flexible," he said.

For example, the shoes are really made to have ample width, lightness, breathability, protection and shock absorbency. The shoes weigh only from 200 grams to 300 grams. No metal was also used in the shoes, making them very airport-friendly as the wearer could go through metal detectors and no warning bins would be heard. They're also free of Sledgers comfort services, like double wear soles for the soles, and cushioning latex insoles. The components are specially designed to provide the greatest flexibility, according to Bashor.

The shoes also feature a completely new vent system that is guaranteed to absorb the impacts of the heel while protecting the front of the foot with a flight dampener. Shock absorbing shoes is really helpful particularly to people who do a lot of walking during work in leisure.

"The main problem of men is that they're using shoes that are really damaging their body. You don't realize it, but in your lifetime you would be walking 25 million steps. It's very important to wear comfortable shoes, because every step you make really has an impact on the body," said Bashor.

Sledgers has capitalized on innovation to make shoes for work very comfortable, which wasn't a typical key feature of many office or work shoes that normally boast only of good looks, according to Bashor.

"Normally working shoes are not necessarily considered as comfortable. But we think the comfort zone for their always not only on the weekends, when you get to wear rubbers shoes. You must have comfortable shoes that you can wear every day."

For comfort and style, consumer must always pay the extra amount as purchasing a good pair of shoes that have all the comforts and quality it really a long term investment, according to Bashor.

"It's important for a customer to invest more on shoes at the outset beginning as you will keep the shoes longer and you will feel much more comfortable wearing the shoes every day."

Sledgers' top of the line collection is shadow City Comfort Swimd that are the epitome of formal business wear but with on the will feeling. City Comfort and faux alcohol blend really with easy going lifestyle.

Sledgers has three boutiques located in SM Mall of Asia, Ayala Trinoma, and SM Cebu Northwing. The brand is also available in fourteen department stores in APC, Ermita, Cebu, Gaisano, Makati and Power and at selected SM Department stores in Makati, Mall of Asia, Megamall, Cebu and soon in SM Marikina and SM North Edsa.

FLORSHOW Bashor: Founder's realize it, but in your lifetime you would be walking 25 million steps. It's very important to wear comfortable shoes, because every step you make really has an impact on the body.

Globe Negostar Michelle Asence-Fontelera shares secret to Zen Zest's success

ZEN ZEST body care and fragrance owner Michelle Asence-Fontelera hands us what it takes to managing her business, which has celebrated 10 years to be inducted to the Globe Negostar Hall of Fame.

Equipping her handsome and Zen Zest outlets with Globe Business Plus postpaid plan allows them to communicate with her and the offices on a regular basis, even taking product orders through text. This means unlimited calls, unlimited texts, unlimited communication with her customers and unlimited profits.

She shared her personal experiences to fellow entrepreneurs at the recent Globe Negostar event in Makati Shangri-La. Globe hosts Negostar events in various locations across the country to show Globe the advantages of having business solutions customized to support their common success needs.

Other Negostar events this May were held in Pampanga at Lewis Grand Hotel in Angeles City, Queen Margarette Hotel in Tacloban City and Cebu Plaza Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. The last of this run for the month of May was the Negostar event at Mimi's Hospitality Suites in Dumaguete City last May 14.

Companies like Zen Zest can experience the benefits of having customized solutions to support their business by consulting with Globe business account managers. You can also visit the Globe Store, call the Globe Business Hotline +632 730-1260 or log on to www.globe.com.ph/negostar to days to find out more.

SHOWN are Globe business corporate and SME head Nenog Alipalo and Globe Negostar Michelle Asence-Fontelera, Zen Zest bath care and fragrances owner, at the Negostar event in Metro Manila's Makati Shangri-La last May 18.

Fashion brands launch impressive collection at Fashion Week

ANGEL Carlos for Lureal

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

STYLISH FASHION brands debuted stunning collections at the recently concluded Philippine Fashion Week ranging from feminine and chic ensembles to edgy and youthful outfits that should make both fashionistas, divas and shopaholics' totes their destination to drop their hard-earned money to decode the best.

With competition among brands getting stiffer, it's not right for these names to step up the game and associates themselves with prestigious events such as the fashion week.

There's Bobbi, a lifestyle brand for women, which joined the grand opening fashion week for the first time this year. Headed by brand endorser and ambassador Charlene Gonzalez, the collection featured Jackie-O inspired ensembles: cute mini black dresses; chic and trendy sweaters; tee, and sky high nude shoes.

"I like it that the clothes seem like they would look flattering on women, whatever body shape they have and that's a big plus," said Sheryl Sangcang, editor of luxury magazine Space. "I think I could wear a couple or two on night from that runway show."

The featured clothes did look cool and comfy, nothing that I ate/drank would wear anytime soon.

As expected, Iconsider got the loudest applause from the audience, and rightly so. The cutie cut faves, clad in a light brown jumpsuit, accessorized by a printed belt, and sockless.

Then there's the more edgy Cityguy collection which delivered wearable glamour that is cutting-edge and youthful. Living up to its brand persona, the clothes looked very catchy, and fashion-forward. More importantly, the collection is very wearable outside the runway.

The male models sported outfits that looked very versatile...sure you can wear in a formal event, but wouldn't look out of place in a more casual setting. The color palette mostly came in dark shades: black, gray, brown, as they gave an air of sophistication and class.

The Philippine Fashion Week ended with a bang, with beauty brand Ellana launching a collection full of sophistication and class, as if they were made for royals in the European region.

Ellana's brand ambassador in the country, opened the event with a fun, black long sleeved top coupled with a gang checkered skirt, complete with black boots. The young actress later returned to the runway with a one-piece red ensemble that looked hard to pin on and harder to take off.

CITYGEN fashion show

Are you ready to be a Mestiza?

BEAUTY AND THE BEST! Filipinas of all ages, sizes and creeds are on different ways to maximize beautiful skin. Whether we like it or not, there is a common misconception that white skin is synonymous to beautiful skin; however, if one looks at it objectively, having a healthy and beautiful skin does not always just equate to having a whiter complexion.

In answer to the need for a whiter and healthier complexion, EMD Farmers Manufacturing Corporation created a synergized soap technology to formulate Ellana Soap.

What is Ellana's synergized soap technology? It is the combination of Five Dual-and-synergistic extracts with specific skin benefits: (1) Carrot...known for its astringent, tonic and intensive cure for dry skin; (2) Kalamansi, known for acne prevention; (3) Virgin Coconut Oil, popular for its anti-wrinkle properties and helps to kill bacteria on skin; (4) Banana, a popular ingredient for lotion and perfume production due to its skin softening components.

Just imagine all the benefits of these natural extracts in one soap to keep your skin healthy! Moreover, unlike other brands which are manufactured through hot process, where heat is introduced for the mixing process to produce the soap, Mestiza is produced through cold process, methodically known as Saponification. In this process, ingredients are mixed and set to harden without employing heat, as heat is found to eliminate the efficacy of the various extracts. As such, Ellana can boast of the efficacy of the natural extracts used in its formulation.

Just like the pure mestiza utilized for Mestiza, EMB Farmers Manufacturing Corporation, makers of Ellana has also has pure intentions to help the less fortunate through its Corporate Social Responsibility Program. As part of the company's thrust, EMB Farmer's Manufacturing promises to "50-50, Buy-A-Soap, Clean A Life Program" where a portion of the proceeds of every Ellana bought is used to help the less fortunate. Unlike other brands, mestizo and mestizas participating use of the proceeds are not solicited or sale. In fact, these items are given to institutions and organizations to directly provide soap to use free for mass evictees. Buy Ellana to save and be able to help the less fortunate.

Mestiza is currently searching for its newest endorser through its launched event "Hunting Mestiza Endorser" happening on Jun. 11, 25 years old at the time of the pageant, single, of good moral character, with a height of at least 5'3", with talent and pleasing personality. Aside from bragging rights, Hunting Mestiza grand winner will bag a cash prize of P50,000, gift items and a one year endorsement contract with Ellana. 1st runner-up will receive P40,000, gift items and some year appearance contract and the 2nd runner-up will receive P30,000, gift items and some year appearance contract with Ellana.

Interested applicants may get application forms from Ellana's Showcase Outlets, Philsa Corporation, EMB Farmers Manufacturing Corporation and other leading supermarkets nationwide. Just attach 2 regular sized 1.20g Ellana Soap or 4 60g Ellana to the application form. All entries will also have to submit the front of the three winners of P10,000 each prize and gift items who be raffled off on June 11 at the grand finals to be held at SMX Function Room 1, SM Mall of Asia at 6 p.m. For detailed mechanics and downloadable application forms, visit www.mestiza.ph.

Here, are you ready to be a Mestiza?

Popits steps into the Manila fashion scene

STYLISH BAGS all the season to get excited as international brand and Hollywood favorite Popits! steps into the Manila fashion scene. Popits are stylish fashion "statement" anchored on flip flops with hair and hand accessories to boot. Popits of free hair accessories like hair scrubs, pins, head bands, hairs and ponytails, phone straps and bangles. It's to complete line up of accessories for enthusiasts! When's more, the Popits charms are made from high quality American crystals, gemstones, baby Swiss American crystals or brand of Swarovski. Silver charm just like metal flip flops, Popits also incorporates a fashionista as it promotes personalized and customized style. Yeah! Each Popits item, be it flip flops or hair and hand accessory carries a unique mark equivalent hands-on device that allows one to attach a favored charm to the carrier.

It's as easy! First, choose a Popits item: flip flops or accessories (head bands, ring or bangle), select your Charms (swarovski or their), and pop your favorite charm into the hook-eye device. Voila! You instantly and absolutely wear your style and mood in one quick pop. You can simply detach and interchange the charms on your flip flops, head band or any other Popits accessory by a fresh look every day.

The personalized fad of Popits at to get Hollywood stars captivated. Stars like Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Alba, Hilary Cyrus and Selena Gomez have been spotted by paparazzi sporting Popits flip flops and narrating Popits hair accessories. Surely Popits is a must for fun chic and trendy.

Now, Filipinas don't have to travel all the way to Hollywood just to get their hands on a coveted pair of Popits.

The international brand popped into the Manila fashion scene recently with the opening of a Popits outlet at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Makati. Popits' brand of comfort and customized style made Greenmarks Inc chair and president Dr. Nina Bautista-Ching (Greenmarks is the exclusive distributor of Popits in the Philippines) excited.

"Popits is a very trendy and stylish brand that provides comfort. The flip flops' sole is made of EVA (Ethylene vinyl acetate), a standard used as shock absorber in sports shoes. It's not only comfortable to wear" Bautista-Ching's shares. No wonder, Popits is popular among flip flop enthusiasts in the various countries where it's available: USA, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Indonesia. Get your own pair of Popits now! Check out the pioneer Popits outlet in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell.

Popits is also available at Shoptop, Greenhills and will soon be dropping it at selected SM Department stores

SCHOOL MISFITS

BUM's "MY STORY" Back-to-school Collection inspires the youth to stand out and be heard.

In a few weeks or so, you'll be back in school and back to hitting the books. You'll see old friends, and meet new ones. It's another year of self-discovery, self-expression, and fitting in. But why try to fit in, when you can stand out?

This is the idea behind local clothing label BUM's Back-to-school Collection. Represented by bold, dramatic colors and graphic prints, this new collection speaks volumes about individuality and fearless personal style.

BUM brings back the vivid stripes and the unconventional patches and ripped fabrics, creating pieces that are stylish and pack in lots of character.

With shades of emo rock and modern-Goth style, this statement-making collection motivate the youth express their true colors, proud and without hesitation. The boldness and defiance that this collection represents highlight and celebrate the oft-misunderstood rebellious nature of today's youth.

Who says you have to look like everyone else this back to school season? BUM Equipment's "MY STORY" collection will not only help you stand out, it will also help you discover and express your true self.

BUM Equipment is available at all leading department stores nationwide.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Erwin G. Velarde

INSIDE
Ken Jeong on going nude Only In Hollywood /G4

Bea: Acting is not about lessons

By Jojo Agerollo

BEA ALONZO says she wakes up each day wanting to be a better person. She's scored major and minor victories, and those days, the perceived "victories" she's determined to conquer are "being envious" and "feeling insecure."

She would not say who or what or, her simply-declared: "I think I have said [per se] to [a] all-nighters."

The 4th GMA talent, who met the press at her recent launch as Close Just-Another-Boyfriend "brand ambassador," would do everything to get something she wants, but she knows better than to push it too far.

She explained: "When you have a problem, if you think the world is unfair and people aren't giving you [what] you deserve, you offer it to God. But maybe there's something that you're not doing right." If it's not meant to be, she said, "I easily let go."

Bea has formulated a healthy approach to acting as well. Having acquired basic training via workshops, she sharpened her skills, she said, with the help of mentors Lauren Dyogi and Johnny Manahan. ("ML 50 is like a father to me.")

But acting, she pointed out, is not about lessons learned: "It's [about] you ... how you observe people, how you manipulate and engage your own feelings, every one of them—happiness, fear, pain ..."

It's here to draw from experience, Bea said. Her most difficult role ever, she recounted, was playing a 21-year-old lawyer in the ABS-CBN series "Stay Digital Kung Kinakasay." This was almost 10 years ago, when she was only 14. "I know nothing about the law but I need to be credible as a sexy smart person," she recalled. Jiroh Dyogi patiently explained every detail of every scene to her, she said.

Another movie portrayal that proved very close to home was in last year's "Sa Yo Lamang," about a happy family ruined by adultery. "I relate here a broken family," the actress explained. "That role made me realize

BEA ALONZO

Who is Fe GingGing Hyde and why did she win best actress?

By Rayan Dan Diego Jr.

BEE GAN were well go down in history as the first Gran host actress named GingGing —joining the league of Nora, Vilma and Sharon.

Surely, Fe GingGing Hyde —who hosted awards favorites like Josh Ansanmoin, Lauren Guillen and Meryll Soriano for the top photo—came to totally from the cold.

But her work to land Mardejuan's "Shalka" was so powerful that the country's freaky critics simply couldn't ignore her, even if most entertainment industry insiders have no idea who she is.

"To win the same award won by Nora Aunor, Vilma

FE GINGGING Hyde starred her head for "Shalka."

Santos and Sharon Cuneta is overwhelming," she said.

Fe GingGing, a Dubai-based Filipina singer, self-deprecatingly described her self as a "only and weak ex—my full time job."

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Bea: Acting...

From page G1

cause things. I found myself saying, 'Ah, parehi mo ang nangyari sa akin.' Prior to that, she said, she had little time to entertain her life.

Hot male costars

And she's had just as little time since. So what finished screen test/s can we still working on an ABS-CBN telenovela with two of the hottest male stars, so how—Vic Sotto for his full-length comedy picture 'Ondoy My Da Rondi?' and Robin Padilla for the romantic action series 'Gaya sa Pelikula'?

Because the two men are not alike at all, she said, it's a different environment around each one. First time she came to the set of Vic's film, she related, 'I really felt like the newcomer. The other cast members had long worked together, so they knew one another well. Still, they welcomed me. I had a great experience with them."

As for working with Robin, Bea said, 'May feeling ilig (It was chilling). He's a romantic, a gentleman to everyone on the set." He is more of the silent type, she added. "But they're both very professional and passionate about their job."

School must wait

Post-movie concert tour high school video documented (eg, but studies also important to her, so her celebrity-ness must not affect her schooling. "Perhaps I'll go back to school when I'm not too active in show biz anymore," she said.

Photos/clips she wants her relatives to see/hear and, for Yours and Inspirations," she insists and wants. On her shelf are books by Mitch Albom and Paulo Coelho, plus Dorita de Rosal's "Debosyonada Gagliliwa" and Ed Mylett's "Heaven Is for Real." Because these various are "really good," she said, "I have a tendency to intercede them for others."

Bea is looking forward to a trip with her family to the United States later this year. It would be her first—or (wow! first time in America. "Siguro, siguro, but he's excited about watching an NBA game," said Bea, who has just become real NBA fan herself.

She recently bought a new condominium in Rockwell for her mother. The whole family will soon transfer there. It was a mutual place to Ortigas.

It's clear that Bea "greatest passion," in she put it, "is to provide (well) for my family. That's why God gives me all these blessings."

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Who...

From page G1

Her being a singer, actress and indie film producer (of "Shelter") are just "technical," she told Inquirer.net in an e-mail interview.

(The actress's ability to attend the seventh anniversary last week because she was in Dubai, taking care of her family.)

She participated a Mother's Day congratulations to Mendoza's (similarly Krista contemplated "Hospital Bed" last year, but "Shelter" is her first full-length film.

She earned an awarded twice if the role "was very challenging, especially for a first-timer," she confessed.

In "Shelter" she plays Rio Del mother, a mother pushed to madness and desperate after the loss of months of her son in mysterious circumstances.

To prepare, she took a three-day acting workshop with Isabel Rudy Francisco. She went to great lengths to perfect the part—including shaving her head.

Transformation

It was a complete physical transformation, she recalled. "I needed to lose 20 pounds to look like a mother in two weeks. Rice-fasting and crash dieting weren't enough. I took slimming pills ... my blood sugar [level] went on a roller-coaster ride. I also stopped drinking my eyes brown and quit using body cream for weeks."

Before cutting her hair, she dyed it black. "My boyfriend and husband thought I looked horrible," she said. "I also tried Pretty Boy's soap opera but it was effective because it became cruise and dry."

Then Mendoza asked Jr Gangsing to shave off her head.

Immersion

"I thought, 'No way!' But as a producer, I also understood why it was needed and would help the film."

She immersed herself in the Dasmariñas community for three months, too. "I slept on the sidewalks with cardboards for a few nights. I went to the Bantayan vegetable market at 3 a.m. to study my characters and how

Ken Jeong...

Story on page G2

Ken Jeong: "My dad told me as a child, 'It's not about how smart you are. It's what you do with your tools.'"

thought about it," Ken recounted.

Laughing, Ken continued: "Bradley said to Todd, 'Until you brought it up, I didn't realize how disgusting this actually is.' In other words, Bradley and I were thinking about the film and not about our personal feelings. It's great and interesting when you're working with actors who care about the final result, and who don't mind going through some disgusting foolishness."

For anchoring this "hard-up," bromance along with Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Justin Bartha, Mike Tyson and Heather Graham in "The Hangover Part II," among the new cast members to the movie are in Thailand are Jamie Chung, who got a call to audition for the role on Ed's birthday while she was vacationing in Boracay (as we reported in an earlier column) and Paul Giamatti.

Best friend, collaborator

Ken is grateful to Todd, who started handing lawsuit-issues as he was about to start shooting the first "Hangover."

"I would never have been in a film if it weren't for my wife," he said. "She encouraged me to leave my job as a doctor to be an actor full time. She's my best friend and collaborator." Thus, when her own girls (8 years old) with Ken, has reportedly kicked the tantrum.

"My parents were real 'tiger parents, too," Ken added.

Although Mr. Chow is a villain, many "Hangover" fans love the hilarious gangster character. Ken said folks greet him everywhere. "People ask me to do the Mr. Chow voice," he said. "I always do it. They like me to say to them, 'Get the hell!' (The politically incorrect Mr. Chow makes fun of Judith every night when characters in the first movie.) They also love it when I say 'Excellent!'"

Inspired by 'Goodfellas'

Asked for his inspirations in shaping his comic-tortured character, Ken answered: "It's a combination of different characters in movies and people. Joe Pesci's character in 'Goodfellas' was a big inspiration. In fact, there were times in 'Hangover' where I'd watch 'Goodfellas' in my trailer just to get in the right mood. And Heather Lockjaw in 'The Dark Knight' is more of the outrageous spectators of Mr. Chow."

The Ukiboon actor pronounces most hurt in the original "Hangover" of a signs. But 2 Incisive a dentist-led trucker who plays a drug dealer and does crazy gags that see Gil's mind. "Cryand the mothers may be the best actor I've ever worked with," Ken said.

Of his own experience as an Asian American actor trying to make it in Hollywood, Ken pointed out: "It's a great challenge. But for me as an actor, I look at it like, now—those were movie roles that were written for white people that I got. But simple, my role in 'All About Steve' was written for a white person. I got the role instead. I feel the joy of playing different characters."

But make no mistake about it, he stressed, he's so proud to be a Korean American. "I'm proud of a very exciting moment. There's a groundswell of Asian-American talent and I'm honored to be among them. The best thing about it is we're all different. We're not the same. We don't act or look alike. We're fighting for different roles."

Talk of Ken's Asian heritage led to his admission that he identified with Todd's. He overachieving 16-year-old pre-med student who is the brother of Stephen Chow's character in the upcoming "Kung Fu Panda 2" and is played by Mason Lee, who is director Ang Lee's son.

Ken revealed: "When I met Mason at the rehearsal, I told him, 'Teddy' is me as a kid. I love Mason so much. He's such a good actor. We were cast in fairly much the same day other than we auditioned. Until him my whole life's away. I skipped a grade when I was a kid. My father wanted me to be a physician. I pursued the violin. I violated in every aspect of Mason's character. Mason does such a good job in the role."

No genius

But Ken admitted: "I don't think of myself as bright. My dad told me as a kid, 'You're not bright, you're not a genius. You are only get ahead if you work hard. It's not about how smart you are. It's what you do with your tools.'"

A high school graduate at age 16, Ken went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, then studied stunning stand-up comedy concepts before he ne-ment in Los Angeles, then kicked his job as a doctor while doing small roles and mind-up gigs.

Then the big breaks came through "Knocked Up" and "The Hangover."

Ken said he doesn't miss the long hours as a doctor. Aside from a chuckle, he quipped: "My do have a lot of a better lifestyle. I don't make certain aspects of working to a doctor. But I miss my patients. Since my path is of as a physician, we still talk medical questions all the time. I still go to conferences with her and I constantly hold mad medical magazines and journals."

Of his days as a general practitioner and a doctor of internal medicine, Ken said he was never home much, my patients. Laughing again, he remarked: "I never showed up naked in the examining room. I was always a professional. My patients knew that I really cared about them. They could not be happier for me."

Although his wife seems satisfied or surprised his house patients, the doctor-turned-actor swears he hasn't pushed his medical license. "I can go back and practice. So this is really up to me. I'm redefining my own life. It's the biggest honor and thrill."

E-mail the columnist at rvmpeake_DAM@earthlink.com.

Who is Fe GingGing Hyde...

Postscript G3

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Ken Jeong on going nude

LOS ANGELES—Ken Jeong, Mr. Chow to fans of "The Hangover," goes nude again. In the film's sequel, he does it full frontal.

"My wife knew about the nude scenes. I got her permission," said Ken, looking sans in a navy blazer, light blue shirt and jeans, until he broke into his goofy character's laughter.

Ken's wife is Tran Ida, a doctor like him. The Duke University alum, a son of Korean immigrants, quit his day job when a slew of roles allowed him to pursue his real love—acting.

"Hangover," the biggest R-rated comedy hit movie of all time, has one scene in which Ken's mah boot character jumps naked from a car trunk, his private parts landing smack into Bradley Cooper's mouth.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert W. Nabuelas

"I was coy when we first talked," Ken said with a grin. "We met inside and do it. I thought, if I do that, this movie will go like a bomb-rocket. Bradley and I are good friends. We did 'All About Steve' prior to 'The Hangover.' He said I had dinner the night before we shot that scene. I talked about my plans. Bradley loved it. As an actor, he sees encouraging me to be fearless, too. So by the time we shot the scene, and I was naked and my genitals were on his neck, we were more concerned about things, like, 'Okay, how does the camera work? We were not nervous about it."

Still, said the director, Todd Phillips, asked if Bradley was okay. "Todd told Bradley, 'If you feel uncomfortable, let me know.' Bradley

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Editor Edwina G. Rotairo
ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars

Living her dream—and thankful for it

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Andrew Eala/Inq

"I'VE BEEN dreaming about it since I was young. I'm thankful that it's happening now," says 20-year-old Andrea Torres on becoming an actress.

In March, Andrea signed an exclusive two-year contract with GMA Network. Two months later, she landed a part in the afternoon drama series "Dimasang Bato."

It helped that she had joined extracurricular activities while in school. "I performed during assemblies, acted in plays, attended leadership conventions, even volunteered to read Bible verses during Masses. I was also in the volleyball team. When I was younger I took up ballet lessons. I tried every thing that could help me express myself as an artist," Andrea told Living Stars.

At 17 she started appearing on TV shows on ABS-CBN. Two years ago, she became one of the hosts in the youth-oriented show "Na Blog," also on GMA7.

"Hosting on 'Na Blog' was something I wanted to try. What I really wanted to do was act."

Clothes

I prefer wearing dresses in prints. I like to look sexy, but not too much. The dress in olive green color and asymmetrical cut is memorable because I was wearing it when I signed my contract with GMA-7.

I've had the jumpsuit from Forever 21 for years now. I was wearing it when I bumped into my idol Anne Curtis at a restaurant. She said she liked it. That really made my day.

I like shopping for dresses at Morgan, Zara, Mango, Forever 21 and The Ramp. I also like the ones made for me by designer Raye Olbinski. They're very girly but not too sexy.

Footwear

I'm into wearing flats these days, but I still need to buy heels for work. My favorite is the white pair from Call-It. Not only does it look very classy, it's also very comfortable. The pair from Steve's is another favorite. It's gold and has glitters. I'm also in love with the pair of slip-ons with sequins and pearls. It's very unique.

The heels I buy are usually classy but medium high. Wearing heels improves the posture and makes you look sexy.

The pair of heels in Bethesda is special to me. It makes me feel like I'm Bubble. The other pair, in red and patent leather, makes me feel like I'm Dorothy (in "The Wizard of Oz"). I have a pair of striped heels as well, from Michael Antonio; black boots from Aldo and a studded leather pair from Charles and Keith.

I used to practice "beauty before comfort" until my feet hurt so badly after a day of walking. The shoes gave me scars on both feet. Since then I would always array for the practical and the most comfortable. I don't mind splurging on shoes because I know I could use them again and again.

Bags

I like a bag that goes well with my clothes, and like the clutch from Michael Antonio (shows a beaded bag with a Union Jack design). The one I bought from Charles and Keith is also nice. I love its circle and gold chain. The Nine West piece is a hand-me-down from mom. I like it because it's girly. I can use it on any occasion. The clutch with zebra print is also a favorite.

Bags shouldn't have to be pricey, just make sure they're from a good and reliable brand. Be sure they're made from materials that don't easily fade, and that their designs are unique so you can spice up your outfits with them.

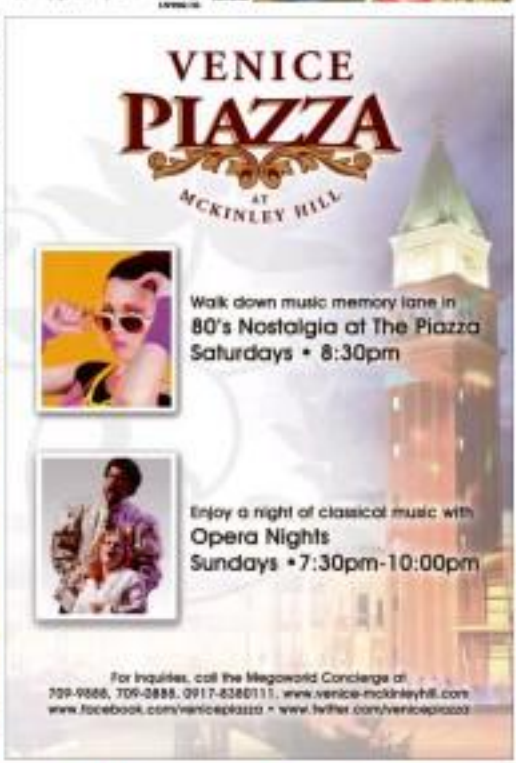
Accessories

I usually go for simple studded earrings

PUMPS
that remind her of Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz"

BUCCI
bag in a beaded tone (from Aldo)

ROYAL
blue pumps from Michael Antonio



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Living...

From page 04

or cute bangles. If you're wearing flashy bracelets, match them with a simple necklace or pair of earrings. This way you won't draw too much attention. Most of my accessories are bought from Forever 21. I like quirky stuff, but in gold, silver and neutral colors. I like wearing plain tops and add cute accessories.

Scents

I heard about Dotty by Marc Jacobs from my sisters. I like it because it's long-lasting. I also use Bulgari for its vanilla scent. The Bulgari Blue has a manly scent. I use it only for special occasions. Vera Wang is very light so I use it everyday.

I like having [some with something about it: pink, aroma] or fruity and fruity Fiesta. I use them depending on my mood. My favorite scent, the one I use if I'm in a really good mood, is the wild honeysuckle. It's a feeling reminiscent of just want to relax at home. I use vanilla light. I also like the cherry blossom scent.

Cosmetics

My foundation, blush-on and eye shadow are all from Mac. The loose effect: thick coverage, which is good when you're always in front of bright lights. For everyday use, I go for the translucent powder from Clinique and Estee Lauder's overnight glam-makeup cream.

Books

The first book I read was Bridal Shifts "Chick lit and the Chocolate Factory." Since then I've been collecting all his books. Only recently, I got addicted to reading "Gossip Girl" (by Cecily von Ziegesar). This was before the TV series. I have all of her 12 books, including the prequel.

My other favorite authors are Jaclyn Kinsella, Sarah Waffles, Meg Cabot and Jane Green. I used to be very pessimistic, but because of these books, I learned to expect the best in every situation.

I also choose books that's not my age, so that when I come across a similar situation in my life, I'll know what to do. I just finished Rhonda Byrne's "The Secret" a few days ago. I intend to read her second book, "The Power," soon.

SHE USES Bulgari Blue only on special occasions.

Gadgets

I love an iPod for games and listening to songs. I got myself an iPod Nano recently which I use when I go to the gym. I also bought pink straps so I can tie it on my arm. I have the other pink. The silicon case of my BlackBerry Bold is pink.

Collections

The school certificates of merit I got for dance, speech and acting are very important to me. I still keep the souvenir program from the school play "Tales of the Golden Flowers." I played the lead [role].

The very proud of the invitations for my 10th birthday party — I helped design it. The theme of the party was fairy tale. It was held at the Hyatt Hotel two years ago.

I like collecting cute and unique stuff since I was little, like the fur coats of synthetic fur in fashion, or the furry mouse holder, or the pair of pink slippers.

In school I was known for my cute pens, like the one decorated with beads and pink feather. Since I couldn't be fancy while wearing my school uniform, I just expressed my artistic self in the stuff I used. My mom helped me decorate my pens with ribbons, feathers and plastic flowers.

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The End

of long lines

of missing the first few minutes

of waiting for the next screening time

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'Street Smart' gears up for a tasty premiere

MATCHMAKER Geographic Channel's "Street Smart" host Mitzi Borromeo

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

THIS July National Geographic Channel (NGC) will premiere "Street Smart," its first locally-produced science and culture mini-series. Consisting of three one-hour episodes, the show aspires to shed light on the complexities we encounter in our everyday lives.

"Sometimes, we know everything, but there are always different layers of understanding," said "Street Smart" producer and host Mitzi Borromeo in an interview with the hysterics at the show's launch last Friday. "We explore how things are affected by our culture and surroundings."

Built to a Rapunzel-esque mother and a Catholic father, Mitzi was spoiled with gastronomic delights. It's only fitting that the show's maiden outing is about food. Its first episode, "Surviving Chibog," explores Filipinos' love of eating.

"We wanted something warm and family relatable to Filipinos. So when we say lalagang mal-feed me, kinikilig ito. And sometimes how-hate naman to pag feeling mo somewhere we. This episode promises to make you laugh and entertained, indicating that, unlike many of her contemporaries, she has the imagination and mark rules to act, rather than merely pass amateur-ish hazy, facile narration orchestrated.

It would be really great if more young-adult performers would be similarly ambitious and going for creative.

CLICK!

While food for NGC has always been one of Mitzi's career goals, for the past two years, she and her colleagues in Creative Cross Border Productions pitched our proposals after another until they finally got the approval of NGC executives in Singapore and in the US.

"Street Smart" is a dream project for Mitzi. Despite the pressure of living up to NGC's strict standards, Mitzi said that she enjoys every bit of the production process because she always learns and discovers new things along the way.

"I write, edit, host, produce and find patrons as sponsors," she said.

"The important thing about having local productions is that we're able tell stories from a Filipino perspective," she explained. "Tandaloon kasi, many science shows are from the UK or US."

Even if cultivators, varieties, shows, and talent searches are the trends today, Mitzi is confident that "Street Smart" can provide something refreshing to the Filipino audience. "Hindi lang dapat pare-pareho ng kinakain, hindi lang pare-pareho ng nakikita," she said.

Mitzi added: "It is only when thorough scientific rationales, "Street Smart's" initial audience will most likely be the upper and middle classes. But the good news is that there are plans to make NGC more accessible to everyone.

"We want to bring this in the masses. NGC will be partnering with free television, so eventually everybody can watch the show," Mitzi said.

Second... From page H8

in terms of economizing and dramatically affecting storytelling, so teen-work is needed here, as well.

It's a good development to see Instructions of the cartoonist-turned artist played by Judi Santamaria. The actress' take on this new addition to her gallery of whatever characters is bracingly edgy

300-kilometer journey

GMA News and Public Affairs' "399 Kilometers: Isang Pagkalahbay" is a 60 minutes special that brings Mikee Maralit and Mho Lutag in God-devoid Mindoro closer by opening their doors to "ultimate outsiders" — five people who will explore, enjoy and educate themselves to a spot of three nights and two days. Maralit (read: clever reckless and Isabelle Daza and Monggol tribesmen living, Gaida and former lovestar guest and host, mentor and student, traveler and travel guide as they try and convince each other to take the big leap as their respective birth lands. The 399KS presentation airs on May 29 at 10:15 p.m. on GMA 7.

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
2) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
4) FAST FIVE
5) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
6) KUNG FU PANDA 2
7) DYLAN DOG

GREENBELT 1

1) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
5) KUNG FU PANDA 2

GREENBELT 3

1) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
5) KUNG FU PANDA 2

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4) FAST FIVE
5) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2
4) HAIL PASS

MARQUEE

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3) ARTHUR
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES

MARKET! MARKET!

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) DYLAN DOG
3) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
5) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
6) KUNG FU PANDA 2
7) FAST FIVE

TRINOMA

1) DYLAN DOG
2) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
4) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
5) FAST FIVE
6) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
7) KUNG FU PANDA 2

ABREEZA

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
4) HAIL PASS

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May 27, 28

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Second impressions

AFTER the impressive pilot telecast of the new series "100 Days To Heaven," we continued viewing the show on its opening week and found it instructive that we got a surprising number of second and even third impressions. It prompted us to adjust our overall perception of the

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

program.

The biggest shift happened when the adult characters of the story's protagonist, Anne Shumaker (Cassey Reyes), was re-

placed by her twin sister Ann Shumaker (played by Kyrnol Shumaker) after Ms. Peace agreed to send Ann back to earth, to give her a second chance to make up for her many cited sins.

After Kyrnol "took over," we were surprised to see that Cassey's participation in the show was drastically abridged. Once in a while, she would reappear as briefly "visible" the daughter of her adult version of the character she shared with Kyrnol, but, much more often, it was the cute, little child actress Rachel Ann Mendoza from.

In a sense, this was understandable, since in Peace had stipulated that it was Anne as a child who would be the active element in the "story" character's rebirth and rehabilitation.

Imbalance

On point of stellar coverage, however, Cassey ended up with the short end of the stick on her in terms of under-projection, so the imbalance clearly has to be addressed and remedied.

Fact is, there are dramatic devices and conceits that can be employed to mitigate the situation, and give Cassey her due. We mean that the show can utilize these alternate options more, so the producers won't deprive of the mature actress' proven acumen and energy.

Another unfolding element of the show that needs to be remedied is the general weakness of its honorable opponent. This fact, all we have to a capable cast relative who seems to take away Anne's thriving business empire.

Finally the show's storytelling has yet to dynamically detail how the cast runs for better virtue around. A generic "reformed" feeling of better intentions simply won't cut it.

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